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TODAY IN Arab news

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Guatemala poll laws
Guatemala's President Efraín Ríos Montt signs three election laws after lifting a state of siege, but without indication of when general elections might be held. — Page 4

Islam in perspective
Today's commentary is on man's nobility which consists in being free, worshipping no fellow creatures and maintaining one's freedom in the face of tyranny. Our Dialogue answers questions on Shia and wearing of gold by men. — Page 7

Nicaragua fighting
Heavy fighting between Nicaraguan government troops and rightist exiles continues. Honduras says it verged on war with its neighbor as the Security Council begins debate on Nicaraguan charges. — Page 12

Kohl still faces row over policies

BONN, March 24 (R) — Christian Democrat (CDU) West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl faces further policy disputes in his three-party coalition despite agreement on a joint government program, political commentators said Thursday.

The CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), set the seal on seven days of tense coalition talks late Wednesday night by adopting a package of public spending cuts and measures to combat unemployment.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's Free Democrats (FDP) had announced approval earlier after a separate meeting of their 34 parliamentary deputies.

The new parliament, elected on March 6, meets for the first time next Tuesday. His cabinet is expected to be sworn in the following day.

But Kohl's authority, boosted by his convincing election victory, could yet be tested by deep-seated differences between the liberals and Franz Josef Strauss's right-wing CSU over foreign policy.

The Nuernberger Nachrichten newspaper summed up the view of many analysts in saying the coalition partners had "turned a blind eye" to key questions, including relations with Moscow and East Berlin.

Kohl is scheduled to meet CSU and FDP leaders again to thrash out foreign policy issues before his May 4 keynote speech to the Bundestag (lower house). Strauss said in Munich Wednesday he would continue to press CSU policies in Bonn despite his recent decision not to accept a cabinet post.

The Bavarian premier seeks major foreign policy changes that conflict with Genscher's course over the last nine years. He recently presented a 27-page foreign policy document to his coalition partners proposing a tougher line against Moscow and support for South Africa and other right-wing governments.

Gromyko moves up in hierarchy

MOSCOW, March 24 (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko was Thursday named first deputy prime minister by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the official news agency Tass reported.

Gromyko, 73, becomes the third first deputy to Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov. The others are Getr Aliyev, 59, and Ivan Arkhipov, 75, though the latter is not a member of the ruling Communist Party Politburo.

Aliyev's appointment as first deputy prime minister last Nov. 24 came as a surprise only two days after he was named as a full member of the Politburo and caused speculation that he was being groomed to succeed Tikhonov.

The appointment of Gromyko is a further promotion for the man who has been foreign minister since 1957 and has come to symbolize Soviet foreign policy to the rest of the world. He has been a Politburo member since 1973.

Gromyko's advanced age makes it less than likely that his appointment is a preparation to take over from Prime Minister Tikhonov, who at 76 is only three years older.

The appointment to the first deputy premiership seems intended merely as a mark of recognition of Gromyko's long and distinguished career. The move is effectively a

Beirut sets 2-week limit for accord on pullout

BEIRUT, March 24 (Agencies) — Prime Minister Shafiq Wazzan says there will be no new concessions in talks with Israel on troop withdrawals and Lebanon demands an agreement within two weeks, according to published reports.

"The Lebanese position has reached the edge. Lebanon has given all it could give and still maintains its sovereignty and dignity," Wazzan was quoted as saying by the independent *Al-Nahar* newspaper Thursday.

Al-Nahar and other newspapers also quoted a "responsible" Lebanese source as saying late Wednesday night that the government of President Amin Gemayel had set a time limit of two more weeks for negotiations to reach agreement with Israel on withdrawing its invasion forces from the country.

"The American proposals do not need more discussion. Either there will be an agreement, or Lebanon has to think of other alternatives," the source was quoted as saying. "This time limit is sufficient. Otherwise we are being deceived."

The source said new American proposals brought by U.S. envoy Philip Habib had been "answered by new negative proposals" from Israel that Lebanon had to reject.

The source did not say exactly what "other alternatives" Lebanon would consider if an agreement was not reached in two weeks, according to the reports, but indicated it "would remain within the American proposals."

The source said Lebanon would use all its influence and international ties to secure the withdrawal of foreign forces. "In doing so, it would not confine itself to fruitless negotiations, especially since the talks have exhausted all the subjects on the agenda and Lebanon cannot give anything more than it has already given," the source was quoted as saying.

The new U.S. plan has not been released, but reportedly involves security arrangements in South Lebanon to guard Israel without the involvement of Israeli troops. The plan may involve the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon, made up of U.S., French, British and Italian troops.

The American proposals also reportedly involve an informal agreement to keep the border between Israel and Lebanon open to some degree, but without a formal treaty between the two nations.

Pullout talks have hit problems over the future status of Israeli-backed militia chief Saad Haddad, an Israeli cabinet source said Thursday.

Optimism after Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir visited Washington last week has proved premature, the source said. "Some of the understandings we reached with the U.S. during that trip appear to have dissolved somewhere in transit," the source added.

The source indicated that Israeli willingness to drop a demand for five Israeli-manned military outposts in South Lebanon was conditional on Haddad and his force being absorbed into the Lebanese Army.

Reagan unveils plan to fend off N-war
Defense holds the key

WASHINGTON, March 24 (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan has said the United States will begin work on a futuristic defense system which he said could destroy Soviet missiles in flight and render "these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete."

The plan, announced Wednesday night in a nationally broadcast speech from the Oval Office, foreshadows a major departure from three decades of strategy calling for deterring nuclear warfare with the promise of massive retaliation.

Reagan said under this plan, the United States could intercept and destroy enemy weapons before they hit American allies or the United States.

He said it could be the turn of the century before such defensive weapons could be produced. Apparently, his plan envisions laser and particle-beam technology which currently exists more in theory than fact.

"Would it not be better to save lives than to avenge them?" Reagan said. He said that after consulting with the joint chiefs of staff and other advisers, "I believe there is a better way ... that we embark on a program to counter the awesome Soviet missile threat with measures that are defensive."

He said such a system posed a "formidable technical task" that might not be accomplished before the end of the century. "Yet current technology has attained a level of sophistication where it is reasonable for us to begin this effort," Reagan said. "It will take years, probably decades, of effort on many fronts."

Reagan's proposals came as he renewed his push for a major defense buildup, even as the house neared a vote on a Democratic budget plan which would slash that increase by half.

Currently the United States and the Soviet Union are virtually banned by treaty from deploying an anti-ballistic missile system (ABM). But "tonight, consistent with our obligations under the ABM treaty and recognizing the need for close consultation with our allies, I am taking an important first step," that would employ different technologies, he said.

Specifically, Reagan said he was "directing a comprehensive and intensive effort to define a long-term research and development program to achieve our ultimate goal of eliminating the threat posed by strategic nuclear missiles. 'This could pave the way for arms control measures to eliminate the weapons themselves,'" Reagan said.

"We seek neither military superiority nor political advantage," Reagan added. "Our only purpose — one all people share — is to search for ways to reduce the danger of nuclear war."

Reagan noted the current policy of deterrence through the threat of retaliation. "But what if free people could live secure in the knowledge that their security did not rest upon the threat of instant U.S. retaliation to deter a Soviet attack, that we could intercept and destroy strategic ballistic missiles before they reached our own soil or that of our allies?" He said that despite the difficulties, "is it not worth every investment necessary to free the world from the threat of nuclear war? We know it is."

The president said the United States would continue to pursue nuclear arms reductions, "Negotiating from a position of strength that can be ensured only by modernizing our strategic forces." At the same time, he said, the United States "must take steps to reduce the risk of a conventional military conflict escalating to nuclear war by improving our non-nuclear capabilities."

Reagan said he recognized that defensive systems "have limitations and raise certain problems and ambiguities. If paired with offensive systems, they can be viewed as fostering an aggressive policy, and no one wants that."

"But with these considerations firmly in mind," he added, "I call upon the scientific community who gave us nuclear weapons to turn their great talents to the cause of mankind and world peace to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete."

"My fellow Americans, tonight we are launching an effort which holds the promise of changing the course of human history," said Reagan. "There will be risks, and results take time," he said. "But with your support, I believe we can do it."

In a briefing before the speech, a senior administration official said the research will be aimed at lasers, particle-beam weapons and other futuristic technologies that might be used to shoot down incoming

It's violation of treaty -- Soviets

MOSCOW, March 24 (Agencies) — The Soviet Union warned Thursday deployment of a futuristic defense system envisaged by U.S. President Ronald Reagan would violate existing U.S.-Soviet accords.

The official news agency Tass said Reagan's plans for new weapons that could destroy Soviet missiles in flight were "a new attempt to achieve superiority in strategic weapons over the Soviet Union and to violate an approximate balance of forces created in the world."

"Deployment of such systems of anti-missile defense would be a direct violation of the Soviet-American treaty on anti-ballistic missiles and its protocol," Tass said.

It added without further explanation that these accords allowed the United States to relocate existing anti-ballistic missile forces only by moving them from their base in Grand Forks, North Dakota to the area around the capital Washington.

The Soviet statement that deployment of the new systems would violate the existing treaty on anti-ballistic missiles appeared to contradict Reagan's understanding of that accord.

First plastic heart recipient, Clark, dies

SALT LAKE CITY, March 24 (AP) — Barney Clark, the world's first and only recipient of a permanent artificial heart, died at the University of Utah Medical Center late Wednesday, his 112th day with the device. Clark, 62, died at 0502 GMT from "circulatory collapse due to multi-organ system failure," said hospital spokesman John Dwan. He would not elaborate immediately, but said Dr. William C. Devries, who implanted the plastic heart Dec. 2, was with Clark, as was Dr. Lyle Joyce.

Dwan said Clark died a quick, quiet and painless death, "in peace and with dignity." Clark's wife, Una Loy, was in an adjacent room with her brother and his wife when Clark died, said Dwan, who was pale and visibly shaken when he broke the news.

"Mrs. Clark, needless to say, was tremendously saddened," Dwan said, adding that "she was crying," but otherwise in control.

"I think that she's been preparing herself. She's a very bright person and she knew what was happening," he said.

Dwan said doctors planned an autopsy soon, but he did not say when.

"I think as the evening wore on, it was expected," Dwan said of Clark's death. He said doctors began to believe Clark's death was imminent as Peterson was convening a news briefing earlier in the evening.

Meanwhile, a man who last month received a new heart on Wednesday became the first patient to die after being treated with a drug designed to prevent the body from rejecting a transplanted organ.

Kenneth Ingram, 28, of Gatesville, Texas, was the most recent of five patients to receive a transplanted heart in an operation in which doctors used cyclosporin A, a drug which increases the ability of the body to fight organ rejection. He received the heart of an unidentified young man on Feb. 28.

Norway brims with oil, gas

OSLO, March 24 (R) — The Norwegian Parliament was asked Thursday to approve exploration and development of a huge oil and gas offshore field likely to become a major supplier of gas to continental Europe for at least 50 years, in competition with Soviet gas deliveries.

The Troll Field, largest of its kind in the world, is estimated to contain some 1,580 billion cubic meters of gas and 164 million tons of oil, the standing committee on energy and industry said in a proposal submitted Thursday for debate later this spring.

Situated at depths of about 300 meters, it covers an area of 700 square kilometers (270 square miles) west of Bergen. Oil experts said that deliveries to continental Europe could start in the mid 1980s.

Total development costs are estimated at over 50 billion crowns (\$7 billion) but the value of the field could exceed 2,000 billion crowns (\$285 billion), a Ministry of Energy official said.

The committee said development of the field, expected to be Norway's largest single industrial venture, would be very costly but it stressed that its gas supplies would make it vital to cover Europe's gas needs in the first half of the next century.

The committee said the gas was expected to be sold in competition with gas from the Soviet Union and African nations. A high price was necessary to justify development of the field but it said buyers would accept it because its deliveries would represent a long-term and secure source of supply.

Two years ago the Norwegian government came under pressure from the United States to increase gas exports to Western Europe to counter the expected deliveries of some 40 billion cubic meters a year of gas through the Soviet Siberian pipeline.

Washington feared that the deal would make countries like West Germany and France dangerously dependent on the Soviet Union for their energy supplies.

Only one of the four blocks in the Troll Field has so far been allocated, with Norske Shell as operator.

The energy and industry committee proposes to make the field fully Norwegian-controlled with the national oil company, Statoil, taking over Shell's responsibility after eight years.

The three other blocks will be distributed among the three Norwegian companies, Statoil having a share of 85 percent, the semi-state controlled Norsk Hydro 9 percent and the private Saga Petroleum 6 percent.

Tough fight ahead, Mitterrand says
Killer disease's cause & cure baffles doctors

PARIS, March 24 (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand, a day after trimming his cabinet down to a tight corps of 15 ministers, praised the progress of his Socialist government but warned the French people that a tough fight lies ahead.

In a nationally televised speech Wednesday, Mitterrand said there had been more social progress and reforms in France during his 22 months in office than in the previous half-century.

"But now, we must, more than ever, win on three fronts — unemployment, inflation and foreign trade," he said.

It is time, he continued, to stop the "infernal machine" of inflation. "To fight inflation is to save money and the power of purchase."

He called the foreign trade deficit "unsupportable" and said the public could play an important role in solving this problem by using French products "when the quality is equal."

He said he had charged Premier Pierre Mauroy with carrying out a rigorous plan of action to bring inflation down to the level of France's competitors, and the foreign trade deficit in two years, keep the social security system in financial balance and contain the state budget in its current limits, support innovative and creative export businesses, develop savings to help investment in industry and housing, and train all young people in professions of the future.

SAN DIEGO, March 24 (R) — A killer disease whose cause and cure are unknown is baffling America's top medical investigators and haunting U.S. cities coast to coast.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), recently discussed at a medical symposium in San Diego, is a mysterious new illness recognized less than two years ago which attacks the body's immune system, making it incapable of fighting infections which eventually prove fatal.

The AIDS fatality rate is almost 70 percent for those who have had the disease for more than a year, reporters were told at a seminar sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

"This is probably the hottest public health issue of this decade," Dr. Fred Rapp of Pennsylvania State University said. "This is most complicated. It is not a simple disease."

Experts at the federal government's center for disease control in Atlanta, which helped to track down other recent "mysterious" diseases such as legionnaires disease and toxic shock syndrome, consider AIDS a much more serious problem.

Dr. James Curran, who leads the center's task force of doctors and scientists seeking the cause and cure for AIDS, said they had received reports of 1,261 cases, including 75 from abroad (mostly Canada, Western Europe and Haiti).

There have been 434 deaths in the United States, giving an overall mortality rate of 36 percent, and Dr. Curran suggested the confirmed cases might be "the tip of the iceberg."

One of the mysteries of AIDS, according to Dr. Harold Jaffe, another member of the task force, is "the diverse groups who are getting the disease — three, four, five different groups."

The biggest group by far, some 70 percent, are "gay" men. But AIDS also attacks intravenous drug abusers, Haitians and hemophiliacs, including children, offspring of AIDS victims sometimes get the disease too. Most scientists agree AIDS is probably caused by an agent, perhaps a virus, but they have yet to find it. "People are groping at straws out there looking for cures," Dr. Curran said.

The problem continues to grow, and doctors at the Disease Control Center say they receive reports of four new cases a day. Because hemophiliacs have developed AIDS and before at least some victims are suspected of contracting it through blood transfusions, there is suspicion it is carried in the blood.

As a result several medical authorities, including the American Red Cross, have recommended that members of the high-risk groups for AIDS should not donate blood.

The vast majority of AIDS cases, the doctors note, are among "gay" men who admit to having many different sex partners. The disease is of such great concern among the "gay" community in New York — where half the AIDS cases have been reported — that this month the city established a special municipal health office to deal with the problem.

The city of San Francisco, which has a very

large "gay" population and the second highest number of AIDS cases, has given some \$300,000 in emergency grants to organizations working with victims of the disease. There are organizations to help AIDS patients and their loved ones in almost a dozen major U.S. cities.

Doctors first started noticing the phenomenon in the spring of 1981, when reports of rare types of cancer and pneumonia started coming into centers for disease control.

The first cases were among "gay" men, but then the syndrome showed up in drug users, Haitian immigrants and hemophiliacs. The experts are especially at a loss to explain why Haitians have developed the syndrome. One theory is that the disease started on the island. Another is that it was brought there by vacationing "gay" men.

Many AIDS patients developed Kapos's sarcoma, a rare form of cancer of the skin or internal organs. Others contracted an unusual form of pneumonia.

Most patients came down with one or several infections normally ward off by the body's immune system. Sometimes they overcome one or more infections only to succumb to another. Researchers suspect AIDS is caused by a virus because there are other virus-caused diseases which temporarily depress the immune system, such as measles and mononucleosis.

"But in those diseases, the immune system returns to normal," Dr. Jaffe said. "With AIDS the immune system stays abnormal."

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Ministry disclaims brokers, agents

Petromin to market oil

RIYADH, March 24 (SPA) — The Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ministry has stressed that it was the sole party authorized to speak on behalf of the Kingdom on oil issues and had entrusted Petromin with marketing the country's oil. A ministry statement issued here Wednesday said that according to the government's oil policy no brokers or agents were allowed to market the Kingdom's oil.

dom's oil.

It warned against falling in the trap of those who claimed to represent the Kingdom and to be in a position to sell Saudi oil.

Full responsibility lies with anyone dealing with such pretenders and the Saudi Arabian government has nothing to do with the matter, the statement said.

Solar energy to provide home power

DAMMAM, March 24 (SPA) — Studies are under way by the College of Architecture and Planning, in collaboration with the Saudi Arabian National Center for Sciences and Technology to make use of solar energy for domestic purposes, it was announced here.

The college is currently doing research to safeguard archaeological sites in the Eastern Province in collaboration with the center, Oteibi said.

There are agreements between the college and a number of U.S. universities to help promote the college scientific development program, he added.

SAS plans special medical tours

By Suresh Shah
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, March 24 — Special tours featuring individual medical checkups and preventive medicine will begin April 1 when Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) begins its "Scandinavian Wellcare" services.

Comprehensive medical examinations by a team of Swedish specialists at Stockholm's Sophiahemmet, a private hospital founded by a former queen of Sweden, is included in the service. The program also calls for medical consultants to diagnose, offer follow-up treatments, therapy and individual advice in

preventive medicine and the promotion of good health.

According to a SAS spokesman, the Wellcare flights include trips to and from Stockholm, a week's stay at the City Park Hotel, a luxury hotel close to the hospital and free time to enjoy sights and shopping. After initial extensive examinations and testing, the guest, who lives at the hotel, may also use the resources of Swedish university hospitals and other specialists.

SAS has organized the program jointly with International Medical Hospital Services (Intermed) and Wellcare Medical Services (WMS).

U.S. media expert visiting Kingdom

By Ahmed M. Hassan

JEDDAH, March 24 — Dr. Stanley Smith, an American professor for press and media at Arizona University who is currently on a visit to the Kingdom, has recognized and defined the difficulties and shortcomings in the United States media coverage of the Middle East. Ways of finding a solution to the problem were discussed at various meetings he held here. He proposed further research and periodic reviews to examine the effectiveness of any possible solution.

Smith conferred here with Dr. Abdul Wahab Bagdadi, head of the Information Department at the King Abdul Aziz University Faculty of Art and delivered lectures on international communication and the Middle East media coverage.

He leaves for Riyadh Saturday to undertake similar meetings with the university dean and professors on March 29. He will leave for Dhahran on April 3 and thereafter returns home.

Smith taught international communication and press for seven years at the Michigan State University and for six years at the Arizona State University. He also organized and directed international communication seminars in Yugoslavia between 1970 and 1972 with international participants and media experts from 18 nations.

Such seminars have gone a long way in providing opportunities to young journalists to get acquainted with various press systems and practices and examine how they are applied in specific social, economic and political circumstances.

In 1972, he founded an association for international communication seminars with its headquarters in Zurich with a view to dealing with the problem of communication between the countries operating under the philosophy that any improvement in international communication can be achieved only by increasing knowledge and understanding of foreign cultures and conditions.



NATIONAL DAY: King Fahd has sent a cable of congratulations to Pakistani President Zia-ul-Haq on the occasion of his country's National Day. King Fahd wished the Pakistani people continued progress and welfare. The Pakistani Embassy marked the occasion Wednesday by holding a simple but impressive flag-raising ceremony in the embassy compound which was attended by a large number of dignitaries. Najam-ul-Qader Khan, Pakistan's ambassador to the Kingdom, hosted a reception at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to mark the occasion. Picture shows Khan, (fourth from left), flanked on his right by Habib Chatti, secretary-general of the Organization of Islamic Conference, and on his left by Prince Mamduh ibn Abdul Aziz and other guests.

BRIEFS

French delegation
RIYADH (SPA) — Crown Prince Abdullah, the first deputy premier and commander of the National Guard received here Wednesday a French delegation led by Andre Billon, the ruling party's deputy chairman for foreign affairs at the National Assembly and head of the French-Saudi Arabian Friendship Group. The delegation is currently on a visit to Saudi Arabia. Later, the delegation conferred with Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdo Yamani.

Report denied
RIYADH (SPA) — Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba Al-Khail has denied a report published by a Kuwaiti magazine claiming that a consortium of Saudi and Kuwaiti banks had granted a loan to a Jewish company, Montana. The minister said in a statement that following investigations it was established that the report, by Al-Risalah magazine, was unfounded.

Talal donates SR100,000
ABHA — Prince Talal ibn Abdul Aziz, the special envoy of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and head of the Arab Gulf Fund, has donated SR100,000 annually to the Abha Women Philanthropic Foundation, Al-Nadwa reported.

Checking speed limits
MAKKAH (SPA) — The Makkah Traffic Department has started the use of a special radar system to check on cars exceeding the speed limits. It was officially announced here Thursday. The announcement said the new system was fixed in traffic patrol cars on highways and that it was efficient in apprehending speed violators.

Medical drug banned
RIYADH (SPA) — The Health Ministry has cautioned travelers coming to the Kingdom against bringing with them the medical drug Zomax, known scientifically by the name Zombirac, because of its ill-effects. The ministry noted that the drug, used in treating rheumatism, was unavailable locally. There have been reports recently about withdrawing the drug from world markets after harmful side effects were detected.

New Education system
JEDDAH (SPA) — The Education Ministry has endorsed a new system for secondary education after its ratification by the Higher Committee on Education Policy, the Western Region's director general of education, Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaid, said. Dr. Zaid said the new system would come into effect in the next academic year and would be implemented over a four-year period.

Saudi-Tunisian ties
TUNIS (SPA) — Saudi Arabian Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Masoud, has praised relations with Tunisia, describing them as excellent. Speaking after a meeting with Tunisian Premier Muhammad M'zali, Masoud said cooperation between the two sisterly Arab states was proceeding well. He added that the recently concluded brotherhood agreement between Algeria and Tunisia was a great achievement.

Somali ambassador praises Kingdom's aid to Arab world

By A Staff Writer

JEDDAH, March 24 — The Kingdom's role in extending support to sisterly countries has been praised in a statement here by Somali Ambassador Abdullahi Haji Ibrahim. He told *Okaz* that Somalia is looking forward to much more assistance at all levels, saying that the Kingdom represents the major source of consolidation and support in the Arab world.

During meetings with King Fahd, the crown prince and senior government officials, Ibrahim said he felt true sisterly sentiments toward Somalia, underscoring the importance of the role being played by the Kingdom.

The circumstances arising from the continuation of the war of attrition with

Ethiopia, according to the ambassador, part of a Communist design, whose objectives are well known. The design, he said, was crystallized in Moscow and when Soviet experts were discovered they were expelled.

Ibrahim indicated old relations with the Soviet Union existed only on the basis of striking a balance in relations with everyone and not on the basis of ideological harmony. He said that when the Soviets tried to meddle in Somalia's internal affairs diplomatic relations were severed. He said that Ethiopia is nourishing the war in an effort to push Somalia to resume relations with Moscow.

"Not under any circumstances would Somalia abdicate its faith in favor of serving the interests of any foreign power, nor will it bend due to any pressures," the ambassador said.

Fateh celebrates Day of the Land

AL-IHSA, Saudi Arabia, March 24 (SPA) — The Fateh Palestine commando movement held a rally here Wednesday night commemorating the Day of the Land.

Prince Muhammad ibn Fahd ibn Jilwi, governor of Al-Ihsa Province, in a speech reaffirmed the Kingdom's stand on the Palestine cause, namely supporting the Palestinian people's struggle.

Fateh's representative in the Kingdom, Rafiq Al-Natsha, reviewed the Palestinian people's struggle to confront the enemy and paid tributes to Saudi Arabia's continued backing.

The occasion triggers mass demonstration in occupied territories against Israeli occupation of Arab land.

Bahrain ruler receives Fahd's note

MANAMA, March 24 (SPA) — Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the ruler of Bahrain, has received a written message from King Fahd dealing with brotherly ties, Arab developments and questions of mutual interest. The message was delivered Wednesday by Minister of Industry and Electricity Dr. Ghazi Algosabi, who arrived here earlier in the day for a three-day visit to Bahrain.

It was announced that during the audience bilateral relations and certain issues of interest to both countries were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Bahrain Minister for Development and Industry Youssef Ahmad Shirawi and the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Bahrain Abdul-Rahman Al-Qadhi.

Korean official aims to cement ties

By A Staff Writer

JEDDAH, March 24 — Promoting cultural exchanges between Korea and the Kingdom, propagating the rich cultural heritage of Korea and improving the ties between the two countries are among the objectives that In-Kie Nam, the new press cultural attaché of the embassy of the Republic of Korea, will pursue during his assignment here.

Nam, 42, who holds a master's degree in mass communication from the Seoul

National University, said cultural exchange will go a long way in promoting mutual friendship between the two countries.

Nam, who has been with the Ministry of Culture and Information for the last 15 years, said this is his first foreign assignment and he is hopeful of presenting the importance of his country, predominantly an agricultural one, now making tremendous industrial progress to the Kingdom.

Nam succeeds Hyun Woong Shin who has returned home at the termination of his assignment here.

Ugandan Muslims get 60,000 Qur'ans

NAIROBI, March 24 (AP) — Sixty thousand copies of the Holy Qur'an have arrived in Uganda by air from Saudi Arabia, Radio Uganda reported Thursday. The state-owned radio said in a broadcast monitored here that it was the first consignment of a total 300,000 copies of the Qur'an donated

to Uganda's Muslims by the Saudi Arabian government.

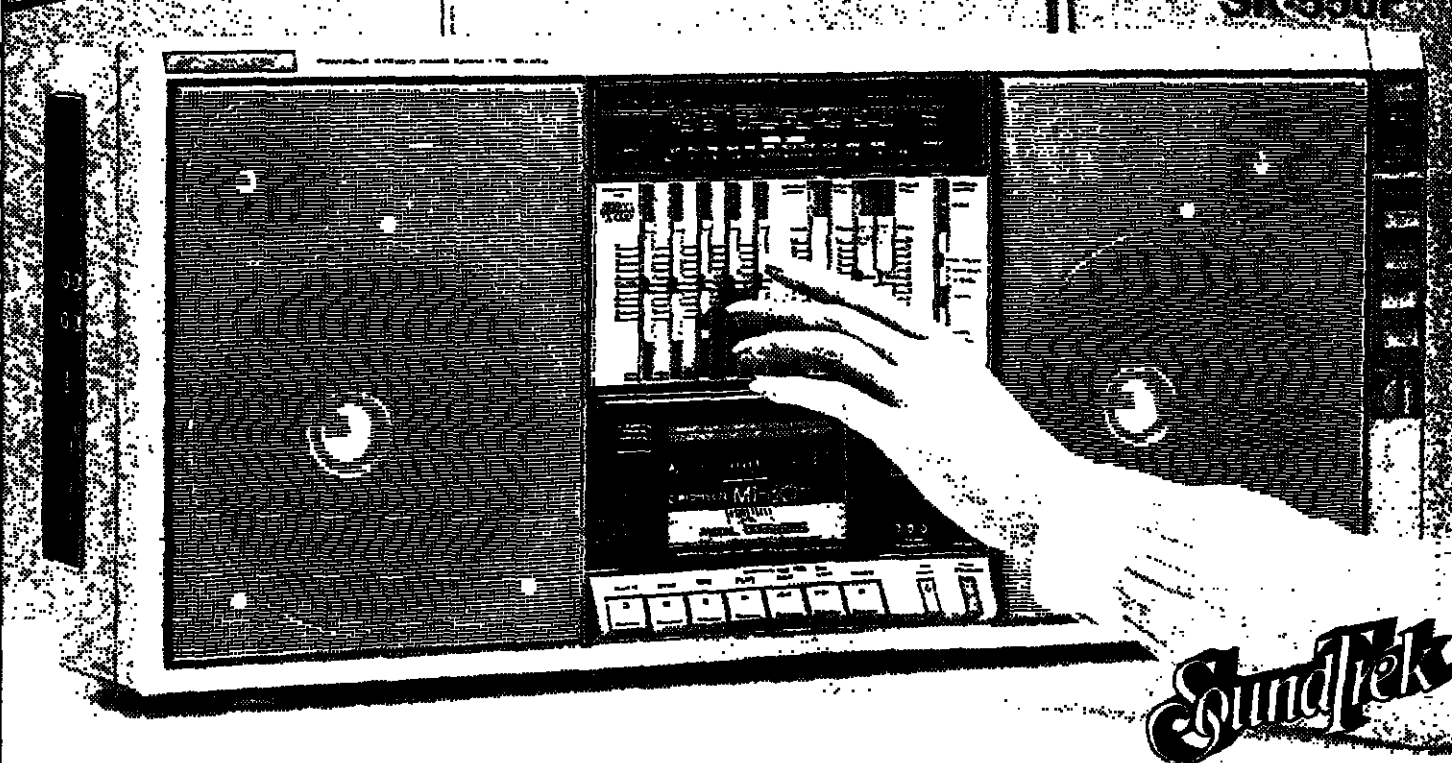
The radio said the holy books were received at Entebbe Airport by Sheikh Abdul Razak Matovu, chief cadi, or leader, of Uganda's million Muslims.

Prayer Times

	Makkah	Madinah	Riyadh	Dammam	Buraidah	Tabuk
Friday						
Fajr (Dawn)	4:56	4:56	4:28	4:14	4:39	5:08
Dhuhr (Noon)	12:27	12:28	11:59	11:46	12:11	12:40
Asr (Afternoon)	3:52	3:55	3:26	3:14	3:38	4:09
Maghreb (Sunset)	6:34	6:36	6:07	5:54	6:18	6:48
Isha (Night)	8:04	8:06	7:37	7:24	7:48	8:18

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مكتبة الاحل

Arafat calls for close Arab, African ties

TUNIS, March 24 (AFP) — Yasser Arafat, the chairman of Palestine Liberation Organization, has called for direct aid between Arab and African states.

Addressing the closing session of the Permanent Commission for Arab-African Cooperation here Wednesday, the Palestinian leader warned, "Without economic cooperation there will be no political cooperation and we shall all lose by that."

"We talk a lot, but people need to eat," he said. African and Arab countries, despite often rich soil, imported heavily and could not even feed their children. If Europe had managed to band together economically in the European Common Market, others could do it, Arafat said. But so far most of the resolutions of the 1977 Arab-African summit in Cairo had remained a dead letter.

The Palestinian leader attacked the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which he said was "keeping us in chains." Calling for close economic cooperation between Arab and African states, he said we are all prisoners of IMF, international banks and world imperialism. Transnational companies tell us what to do, our resources are mopped up by foreign countries and our economies perish. "Some African countries were crushed by having to pay up to 20 percent interest on loans to foreign banks, he said.

"We must recover our own resources," he urged. "It is no longer a matter of North-South dialogue, but of hunger. We are 62 members of the United Nations — two-thirds of the nonaligned bloc. Can we do nothing?" he asked his audience.

Arafat reproached African states which accepted aid from Israel and wanted to renew diplomatic ties with it. "All Israeli aid, whatever form it takes, hurts the Third World," he said.

Japan woos PLO

TOKYO, March 24 (AFP) — In a move interpreted by diplomats here as a bid by the Japanese to strengthen its ties with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the government has invited the chief of the PLO's Tokyo office to a party marking Emperor Hirohito's birthday, Foreign Ministry sources said.

said, exhorting Africans to prevent Israel from regaining a foothold in the continent. With the secretary-generals of the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity, Cheddi Klibi and Edem Kodjo, listening, he called for an urgent and genuine joint development plan — "straightforward, clear, scientific and without slogans. The longer we wait, the tighter the vice will become," he warned.

Thousands fleeing Ethiopian drought, war-stricken areas

Sudan unable to cope with mass influx

GEDAREF, Sudan, March 24 (WP) — Hundreds of half-starved peasants from drought-stricken regions of northern Ethiopia have begun crossing into Sudan in what some relief officials fear may be the start of an exodus involving tens of thousands.

The Ethiopian government and two opposition groups fighting the provinces of Eritrea and Tigray say that the situation is "extremely serious," probably the most severe since a 1973-74 drought in the areas led to the death of an estimated 200,000 people.

Mark Bowden, an official of the British Save the Children Fund who recently completed a visit to Ethiopia, has warned that there is a "real risk" of famine for 3.5 million people living in the affected areas and that "tens of thousands of lives" are at stake.

Another outside witness, a sociology professor from Britain's Durham University who just spent three months in Tigray, gave a similar account. In a public report, Jon Bennett said he had seen "many hundreds moving westward" inside Tigray, "carrying only a few household possessions on their backs."

He said about 250 families per day were migrating from the most affected areas in the northeast and south toward the west, where there is still some food. Some 2,000 peasants

had crossed into Sudan, he said. Sudanese officials, already coping with 440,000 Ethiopian refugees and 170,000 Ugandans in the south, said they will not be able to deal with a large new influx of Ethiopians.

The Ethiopian government, the Tigray People's Liberation Front opposition group and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front are appealing for international assistance to stop an exodus into Sudan. But they disagree on how such aid should be distributed, with the opposition groups claiming that they control most of the areas where the drought-afflicted population lives and therefore it should go through them.

During the great drought of 1973-74, international relief agencies failed to respond because the late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie tried to cover up the disaster and barred access to the starving peasants. Today, only the Save the Children Fund appears to be mobilizing to help. One Washington-based group, the International Rescue Committee, has been winding down its activities here.

A spokesman for the State Department-supported committee, Jon Eklund, said in Washington that as a result of the reports from the drought area, "we are going to stay on" in Sudan. He said seven staff members are providing medical, sanitation and educational aid at four refugee camps.

The United Nations has not surveyed the likelihood of an influx of famine victims. Yet a U.N. High Commission for Refugees mission that visited here in November concluded that a contingency plan for emergency aid

was needed "due to the uncertainty of the general situation."

The U.N. commission's representative in Khartoum, Robert Muller, said, "everybody knows there is a problem in Ethiopia. Whether they (the refugees) will move or not move is a different problem." Muller said he was "certain" that the situation was worse than in the past two years.

Muller also said drought victims were not the concern of his office, because they were not classified officially as "refugees." The United Nations has a special disaster relief agency that deals with such emergencies, he said.

The U.N. commission's representative here, Peter Parr, seemed to agree with Muller that reports of a probable mass influx into Sudan were speculative. On the basis of information available, he said, "I would not say there is a terrible drought, certainly not enough to generate tens of thousands coming over. But it's worthwhile being prepared."

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees, for reasons that have nothing to do with the current drought in Ethiopia, is opening a center 40 miles northeast of here at Showat capable of receiving 5,000 refugees.

The U.N. agency's count of registered Ethiopian refugees shows a big jump to a monthly average of 300 to 400 starting last April, apparently because of bad weather and fighting in Tigray province near Eritrea.

The start of an Ethiopian Army offensive to crush the Tigray People's Liberation Front is likely to aggravate the situation. The army is expected to try to seize the freedom fighters' food supplies in the better-off western

part of Tigray. If it succeeds, the numbers fleeing into Sudan seem certain to increase.

Ismael Ebrahim, the Sudanese assistant commissioner for refugees, said in an interview here that he thought the situation was "not as serious as the drought of 1973." But he added that "it's getting worse and worse as the food supply in Western Tigray goes."

He said the Relief Society of Tigray, a group associated with the Tigray fighters, is trucking 400 tons of food into the province monthly to aid drought victims and trying to keep them from streaming into Sudan for help.

If this fails, he said, "thousands and thousands" of peasants would come across seeking assistance. "I don't think we have the capacity to cope with that." He said Sudanese grain stocks were low this year because of a poor harvest around Gedaref, which is the country's main agricultural center.

Ebrahim said 30 to 50 Ethiopians were arriving daily at his office seeking help and that 60 to 100 were drifting into Gedaref, while others were waiting at the border. Roughly 50 persons, mostly single men, could be seen waiting outside his office the day two U.S. reporters visited last month.

At Tawawa, a settlement outside Gedaref for Ethiopian refugees, a newly arrived Ethiopian, Gebre Amala, 38, said he had walked for one month from his village near Makele, the Tigrayan provincial capital. He said he was seeking work and food in Sudan while his family was still at home.

He said that he and nine other men had traveled mostly by night because of the fighting in Tigray.

N. African unity seen within reach

TUNIS, March 24 (AFP) — North African unity is "within reach" and a summit meeting between Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria should be held as soon as possible, Moroccan Premier Maati Bouabid said in a Tunisian radio interview broadcast here Wednesday.

He stressed the importance of the Algerian-Tunisian friendship treaty signed during the recent visit to Tunis of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and the earlier meeting between President Chadli and Moroccan King Hassan II in Rabat.

The creation of a greater Maghreb (North Africa) was "hardly difficult," he said, but counseled caution and the building of unity by stages.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caïd Essebsi conferred in Fez Wednesday with King Hassan and reported to him on Chadli's visit to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba.

Riot-torn Karachi returns to normal

KARACHI, March 24 (AP) — Authorities said the situation returned to normalcy in Karachi following five days of bloody riots between the rival sectarians that left at least 10 persons dead and more than 100 wounded.

An official statement said curfew restrictions imposed on the Karachi district of Larkana were relaxed twice for seven hours here more than 500,000 people. The statement said "no untoward incident" took place Wednesday.

City authorities imposed a curfew there last Friday in an attempt to quell the riots and sporadic shootings, which also damaged private and public buildings.

The riots broke out in Larkana last Friday when gun shots were reportedly fired on Sunnites in an area where several hundred people had gathered for Friday prayers.

EEC stand hailed

ABU DHABI, March 24 (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Thursday welcomed a statement on the Middle East by West European leaders criticizing Israel's settlement policy.

"The statement indicates some progress which serves peace in the Middle East and strengthens ties between European countries and the Arab world," the official Emirates News Agency quoted Foreign Ministry undersecretary Abdul Rahman Jarwan as saying.

Egypt not to make nuclear weapons

TOKYO, March 24 (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published Thursday that his country had no plans to develop nuclear weapons.

President Mubarak, told the Japanese daily *Mainichi* said: "Egypt is not thinking at all of developing nuclear weapons. (We) are consolidating a wish to turn the whole Middle East into a non-nuclear zone."

Asked about rumors that Israel had nuclear weapons, he replied: "We have no reliable information as to whether Israel possesses nuclear weapons."

He said Egypt would suffer a drop in oil revenue estimated at \$245 million this year and \$500 million in 1984 because of the recent fall in oil prices. But he was confident that this would not have too much effect on Egypt's five-year economic plan, now in its first year.

He said Egypt wanted to normalize relations with the Soviet Union. This would be done after both sides confirmed that Moscow would not interfere in Egypt's internal affairs.

Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali said Egyptian Soviet relations, declining since 1972, have improved and he expects the two countries to exchange ambassadors this year. Ali made the forecast in an interview with the weekly magazine *Al-Musawwar*.

In a wide-ranging foreign policy review, Ali said President Hosni Mubarak, during a Far Eastern tour next month, will seek a halt to North Korean arms aid to Iran in its war with Iraq.

BRIEFS

PARIS (R) — Spanish Vice-Premier Alfonso Guerra was received Thursday by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on the third day of an official visit to Algeria, the Algerian news agency Aps monitored in Paris said.

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Six persons died in a clash here on Wednesday night between security forces and extreme left wing militants, three of them policemen and three alleged terrorists, an informed source said Thursday.

ISTANBUL (R) — Four Turkish fishermen were killed and three seriously hurt when they tried to dismantle a World War I torpedo they caught in their nets in the Bosphorus Wednesday, police said. The torpedo fuse exploded after the men brought it ashore, police said, adding that it would have been far worse if the main charge of hundreds of kilograms of TNT had exploded.

TEL AVIV (R) — Hundreds of Muslim religious leaders in the southern Lebanese town of Nabatieh demonstrated Thursday against Israel's arrest earlier this week of one of their colleagues, an Israeli source said. Pupils in nearby village schools demonstrated and refused to attend classes.

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Lebanese civilians when several hundred demonstrators blocked the coastal road between Tyre and Beirut, military sources said.

LONDON (R) — Iranian government forces killed 30 Kurdish guerrillas near the western town of Bukan Wednesday, Tehran radio reported.

MANAMA (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym conferred here Wednesday with Bahrain's leaders on prospects for an European role in Mideast peacemaking and on current political and economic

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Poll laws signed in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY, March 24 (AP) — President Efraín Ríos Montt celebrated the first anniversary of the coup that put him in power by signing three election laws on Wednesday and calling on all Guatemalans to participate in "the political opening." "We are all Guatemalans, there is no left and right," he declared.

The laws — providing for voter registration, organization of political parties and establishment of an independent electoral council — laid the groundwork for election of an independent of a constituent assembly to restore civilian government.

Ríos Montt refused at a news conference to say when the election might be held. But he hinted previously it might be before the end of the year.

Coming to power in a coup "is a very Guatemalan practice," he told the news conference, but if he catches anyone plotting to oust him, he'll "send them off to be shot."

The Christian Democratic Party later called on Ríos Montt to set a date for the elections without delay. A statement from the party said the government should "issue immediately the call to elections as was promised."

The "day of national dignity" began with lifting the state of siege Ríos Montt imposed July 1. This restored such rights as the holding of public meetings, the inviolability of the mails, freedom from search without a warrant and freedom of information.

However, the president retains sweeping legislative powers, and the secret courts set up under the state of siege, which sent 15 men to death before firing squads, will continue to operate.

"A year ago, a group of younger officers decided to end an abusive and corrupt process that during many years maintained an anti-patriotic order," Ríos Montt said after a three-man military junta which he later disbanded when he named himself president.

P-2 chief Gelli gets suspended jail sentence

GENEVA, March 24 (R) — Italian industrialist Licio Gelli, who headed the illegal Masonic Lodge "Propaganda 2," was given a suspended two-month prison sentence by a Geneva court Wednesday for entering Switzerland illegally.

Gelli, arrested here last September on an international warrant, was charged with using a false Argentine passport in the name of Marco Bruno Ricci to enter Switzerland. His lawyers did not deny the charge but said Gelli came to Switzerland to seek asylum and was opposing an extradition request made by



WARM WELCOME: Mrs. Hazel Hawke, wife of Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke (right) greets Princess Diana warmly when she and her husband Prince Charles (left) arrived Thursday at the RAAF base in Canberra.

Royal couple meet Hawkes

CANBERRA, Australia, March 24 (AP) — Prince Charles, the future King of England, met Thursday with Prime Minister Bob Hawke, whose Labor Party is committed to ending Australia's links with the British monarchy. It was a warm welcome, in chilly weather.

Prince Charles and his wife, Princess Diana arrived in Canberra, from the ranch in Albury 90 miles away which they have made their headquarters for their month-long tour of Australia.

They were greeted in bitter autumn weather by the governor general, Sir Ninian Stephen, who introduced them to Hawke and his wife Hazel.

Hawke, a former trade union leader, has said he expects Australia to become a republic in his lifetime. Hawke, however, has also said he does not consider a republic to be a priority of his government, which was

elected March 5. "Prince Charles is a nice young bloke," he said during his campaign. The royal couple arrived in Australia Sunday and toured the outback towns of Tennant Creek and Ayres Rock before flying to Albury to join their nine-month old son Prince William.

They were greeted Wednesday by a 21-gun salute in Canberra and went on to tour the Australian capital and lunch with the Hawkes. They also visited the construction site for Australia's \$250 million new parliament house, where they were again faced with a supporter of an Australian republic.

A construction worker, Stan Spurek, 25, handed a republican flag to the princess as she toured the site. Other building workers walked off the job to protest the visit.

At a civic reception in Canberra, Prince Charles emphasized the ties that bind England and its former colony.

Italian court in May 1981.

Gelli was arrested on Sept. 13 at a Geneva bank, where he was trying to unfreeze funds totaling tens of millions of dollars in a secret numbered account, according to Geneva police. The government of Prime Minister Arnaldo Forlani, which took office in October 1980, fell in May 1981 after it became known that Gelli's "P-2" organization included some 1,000 of the most powerful figures in Italy. Italian magistrates believed it was plotting to destroy Italy's constitutional order.

Italy formally requested Gelli's extradition from Switzerland soon after his arrest in September. He was charged in his absence with "political and economic espionage" by an

Top 4 discs keep places

NEW YORK, March 24 (AP) — Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" enjoyed a third week Wednesday at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States.

And it was week No. 3 in second place on the *Cashbox* magazine chart for Culture Club's "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me." Lionel Richie's "You Are" stayed on for a second straight week in third position.

The ten top pop singles, as rated by *Cashbox*, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) Billie Jean — Michael Jackson.
- (2) Do You Really Want to Hurt Me — Culture Club.
- (3) You Are — Lionel Richie.
- (4) Hungry Like the Wolf — Duran Duran.
- (5) Back on the Chain Gang — Pretenders.
- (5) Stray Cat Strut — Stray Cats.
- (7) One on One — Daryl Hall and John Oates.
- (12) Mr. Roboto — Styx.
- (13) Come on Eileen — Dexy's Midnight Runners.
- (11) Separate Ways (Worlds Apart) — Journey.

The ten top country-western singles, as rated by *Cashbox*, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (3) Shine On — George Jones.
 - (4) Dixieland Delight — Alabama.
 - (1) Swingin' — John Anderson.
 - (5) When I'm Away From You — The Bellamy Brothers.
 - (6) I Have Loved You, Girl — Earl Thomas Conley.
 - (8) We've Got Tonight — Kenny Rogers and Sheena Easton.
 - (9) You Don't Know Love — Janie Fricke.
 - (10) Reasons to Quit — Merle Haggard and Willie Nelson.
 - (12) My First Taste of Tears — Ed Bruce.
 - (11) Hangin' Around — The Whites.
- In England, Style Council, one of the newest of Britain's new wave outfits, rolled into the top spot of Britain's best-selling singles chart this week with "Speak Like a Child." They ousted gravel-voiced Welsh singer Bonnie Tyler's first major hit, "Total Eclipse of the Heart." But Duran Duran, a stylish Scottish band, leapt into the No. 4 spot from nowhere with "Is There Something I Should Know?" and looked a strong contender for No. 1.
- This week's top 10 as listed by *Melody Maker* magazine, with last week's placings in brackets:
- (9) Speak Like a Child — Style Council.
 - (1) Total Eclipse of the Heart — Bonnie Tyler.
 - (2) Sweet Dreams are Made of This — Eurythmics.
 - (—) Is There Something I Should Know? — Duran Duran.
 - (3) Rock the Boat — Forrest.
 - (4) Billie Jean — Michael Jackson.
 - (13) Rip it Up — Orange Juice.
 - (—) Let's Dance — David Bowie.
 - (5) Na na hey hey Kiss him Goodbye — Bananarama.
 - (12) High Life — Modern Romance.

France to delay N-tests

PARIS, March 24 (AFP) — France has decided to delay nuclear tests this year on its Pacific Mururoa atoll testing site, the Defense Ministry reported. But Defense Ministry sources did not indicate why or for how long this year's scheduled tests had been postponed. They said the 1983 test program was nevertheless expected to be completed as planned.

Defense Minister Charles Hernu said Wednesday the underground tests had been delayed for a few weeks "for technical and meteorological reasons" and stressed that this in no way affected the government's October 1981 nuclear arms program. "Nuclear armament is a national priority," he said. "The government has not changed its attitude."

The daily *Le Monde* said that the beginning of the 1983 testing program on the atoll, in French Polynesia, was initially scheduled for late last month.

Zimbabwe brands newsman

HARARE, March 24 (AFP) — The Zimbabwe government declared the Harare correspondent of *The Guardian* newspaper, Nick Worrall, "an undesirable person and an enemy of the people" as a result of articles in his paper on brutality by the army and political upheaval in the country.

The statement from Information Minister Nathan Shamuyarira did not make clear whether Worrall would be expelled from Zimbabwe because of the three-article series written by another *Guardian* staffer who recently visited Zimbabwe. It said his accreditation was being withdrawn.

It was the first time the Robert Mugabe government had acted against a locally based correspondent in nearly three years of Zimbabwe's independence. Last month, the South Africa-based correspondent of the American magazine *Newsweek*, Holger Jensen, was barred from returning to Zimbabwe after his article in February on army atrocities

This year's nuclear tests notably involve further research on the development of a French neutron bomb, but its production can only begin on direct orders from President Francois Mitterrand, who so far has withheld any such decision. The Mururoa atoll testing program, which remains strictly secret, is aimed at furthering French nuclear technology to boost the country's nuclear deterrent policy.

Testing at the site has so far facilitated the development of tactical and strategic nuclear weaponry. Current tests involve warheads for the Hades air-air tactical nuclear missile, due to replace the pluton in 1991.

Current nuclear research also involves medium-range missile warheads to equip the Mirage IV fighter bombers of the strategic air force as from 1985. The same type of warhead will later be used to arm air force Mirage 2000's and navy Super Etendards.

in the southwestern province of Matabeleland.

Most foreign correspondents in Harare have reported on the numerous accounts of army brutality, estimating that more than 1,000 civilians have been killed in Matabeleland during the army's two-month drive against anti-government dissidents and their supporters.

The government and government-controlled press have accused the foreign press of fabricating accounts of the situation in Matabeleland, although Minister of State for Defense Sydney Sekeramayi has acknowledged in parliament that it was inevitable civilians suffer in such operations.

The information minister also attacked Worrall personally, saying he had "consistently falsified the position of the government and the people of Zimbabwe." He was accused of going "out of his way" in Matabeleland "to give credence to allegations he knew were unfounded."

BRIEFS

Howard, who will complete his term of office July 30.

LOBAMBA, Swaziland (AP) — Two days after she dismissed the last prime minister, Swaziland's queen regent named a little-known bureaucrat to the job Wednesday. Prince Bhekimpoti was not even at the meeting here when the country's chiefs met to hear the widow of the late King Sobhuza II announce his appointment. Police and soldiers immediately fanned out looking for the nephew of the king, locating him outside the capital, Mbabane, and informing him of his new assignment.

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will pay a state visit to Sweden from May 25 to 28, Buckingham Palace announced Wednesday.

PEKING (AFP) — Chen Xitong, 53, has been elected mayor of this Chinese capital of more than nine million people, with a pledge to pay particular attention to controlling environmental pollution and improving water, electricity and gas supplies, New China News Agency said Thursday.

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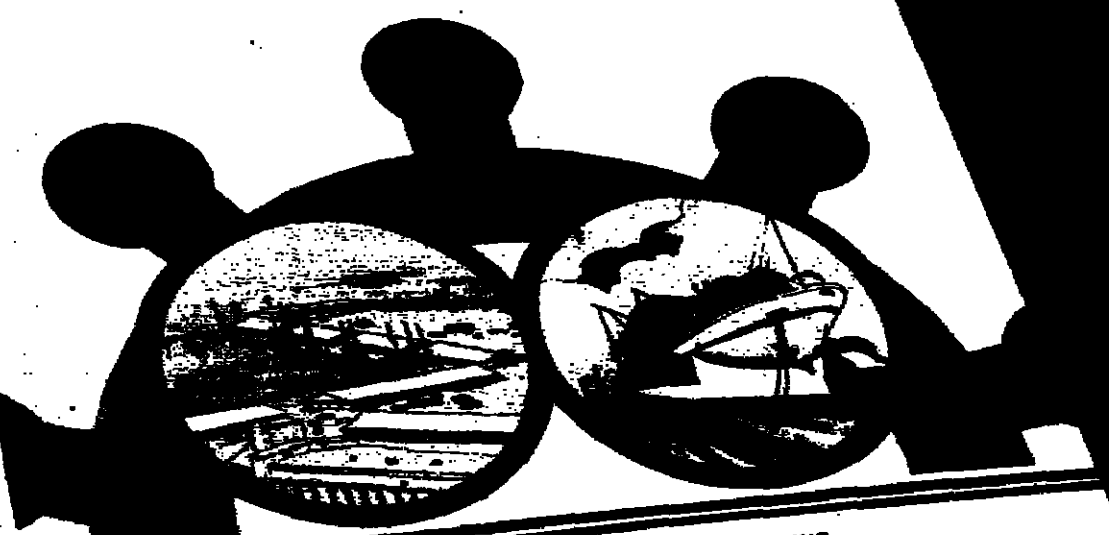
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- Duties and responsibilities.
- List of names and addresses of navigation companies and steamship agents in Saudi Arabia.
- Addresses and contact numbers of Saudi Ports Authority and major seaports.

A Guide to Navigation Companies & Steamship Agents in Saudi Arabia



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Announcement likely tomorrow

Japan may ease import curbs

TOKYO, March 24 (AFP) — The Japanese government will shortly put measures before parliament to make it easier for foreign products to compete on the Japanese market, *The Asahi Shimbun* paper reported Thursday.

The measures, to be announced on Saturday, are intended to modify industrial norms to bring them more into line with international norms, and to change registration procedures for some manufactured goods. In accordance with a decision taken in January by the authorities, some 30 laws have been scrutinized by a special interministerial

committee headed by government spokesman Masaharu Gotoda. The committee concluded that 17 laws should be revised to make it easier for foreign products to enter the Japanese market, the paper said.

All suggestions and complaints raised by Japan's trading partners have been taken into account, the paper said, quoting government sources. The main thrust of the move, backed by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, was to eliminate discrimination against imports from overseas. The proposed changes to the 17 laws will be discussed either separately or as a group, and it is possible that they will be

To rebuild Britain

Labor unfolds economic plan

LONDON, March 24 (AP) — The Labor Party and top union leaders unveiled on Wednesday an economic recovery program which will form part of the opposition party's platform for the next national elections.

The plan, which is designed to cut British unemployment from its present 3 1/2 million to 1 million within five years, was published on the eve of a crucial parliamentary by-election in Darlington, northeast England, to fill a House of Commons seat left vacant by the death of the Labor incumbent.

The program calls for the spending of \$43.5 billion over five years with investment in housing, transport, energy and sewerage having first priority. Labor Party leader Michael Foot told a news conference called to launch the 22-page document that it had the full approval of the party as well as the Trades Union Congress, Britain's umbrella union federation with 11 million members. TUC General Secretary Len Murray sitting beside him nodded in agreement.

Foot said the program was not meant to be an incomes policy with curbs on prices and wages of the kind held largely responsible for putting Labor out of office in the May 1979 elections to bring Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives to power. "It is an extension of the scope of collective bargaining, involving genuine extension in rights and responsibilities."

Murray said it did not mean a soft deal for unionists. "We say that everything has to be on the table, jobs, investment, growth, welfare...yes, and the danger of inflation as well, because we are conscious of the need to fight inflation." Mrs. Thatcher must renew her electoral mandate prior to the end of her five years in office in May 1984 but she can call a snap ballot at any time prior to that.

The document, "partners in rebuilding Britain," says that pay, prices, jobs, investment, growth, welfare and inflation would all be considered in a national assessment after Labor wins power. Trade unions will be given a greater say in the economy, including worker participation at all levels of business right up to the director board. The document expresses the hope that this will bring greater worker responsibility in improving industrial

relations and bringing realism into wage bargaining.

Workers would have great influence over company price rises, investment and pay scales. "This means that they will assume a new responsibility for the planning of real incomes as an aspect of the production process," the program said. The aim, it said, is to create 500,000 jobs a year over the five years of the next parliament.

The Labor government would set up a department of economic and industrial planning, a national investment bank to put new resources into industrial priorities, a tripartite national planning council bringing together government, industry and unions to plan industrial strategy for whole sectors of business, and development plans negotiated with major industries.

This last would cover purchasing policy, measures to counter import penetration, investment plans, pricing strategy and training policy.

Export controls on tin will stay

LONDON, March 24 (AFP) — The current severe export controls on tin producers are to be continued for another three months until the end of June, the Tin Council decided here Wednesday.

After only two days of talks instead of the usual three, the council agreed to limit tin exports from the six producer members to 23,200 metric tons during the 91 days between April 1 and June 30, inclusive.

The allocations for the exports representing a cut of 36 percent on normal shipments remained unchanged at present levels with Australia 1,221 metric tons, Indonesia 5,825, Malaysia 9,062, Nigeria 885, Thailand 4,775 and Zaire 353.

The council also called on producers to spread their exports equally over the three months to avoid a shortage toward the end of the period. The next session of the council will be held in London between June 21 and 24, when export controls for the next three months will be examined.

adopted by the two houses of parliament before the end of the present session on May 26, in which case they would take effect immediately.

However, they would have to be accompanied by administrative decisions and regulations by the five ministries concerned: health, agriculture, international trade and industry, transport and labor. Among the 17 laws due to be amended to avoid legal discrimination are the following: The pharmaceutical affairs law, the agricultural chemicals law, the law concerning standardization and proper labeling of agricultural and forestry products, and the consumer product safety law, the paper said.

The government has also acted on foreign criticism that procedure concerning industrial standards is not clear, and a list of standards and possible changes to them will be published, enabling countries concerned to give their opinion.

Cocoa talks deadlocked

LONDON, March 24 (AP) — A lack of unity among producing nations in the International Cocoa Organization has deadlocked London talks aimed at deciding to negotiate a fresh world cocoa pact, European Common Market sources reported Wednesday.

Confusion also reigns among producers on whether they can fulfill conditions for allowing the buffer stock to utilize a \$75 million Brazilian loan to buy cocoa. This could help syphon off some of the accumulated surplus of 605,000 metric tons of cocoa that is depressing prices. The plan, put forward by the same producers who now are hesitating, calls for buying on a deferred payment scheme to allow the cocoa to be stored in producing countries.

Qualified informants said that some producers have not been able to assume responsibility for the warehousing of the cocoa nor have they been able to work out how much cocoa each producer country will be called on to earmark for buffer stock.

U.K. insurers pay \$290m on plane crashes

LONDON, March 24 (AP) — A record \$290 million was paid out by British insurance companies last year for airliner crashes, the Aviation Insurance Offices Association said in its annual report released Wednesday.

It warned that the total could mount in the coming years. Chairman Ivor Purdie reported that 26 Western-built jets were destroyed in 1982, costing insurance companies about \$240 million. Partial losses accounted for the remainder of last year's payouts.

Purdie said the destruction of three wide-bodied jets accounted for \$120 million of the total. "While 1982 has turned out to be an expensive year, it is more typical of the experience we must come to expect rather than the 1981 year which had few losses," the chairman said. The report gave no figures for insurance claims paid to crash victims.

Honor OPEC price, says Jakarta

JAKARTA, March 24 (Agencies) — Indonesian Minister of Mines and Energy Subroto called on members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Thursday not to undercut the group's new benchmark crude oil price.

Subroto, following a meeting with President Suharto, expressed concern that failure to abide by the agreement will lead to a price war. OPEC members agreed at a recent meeting in London to bring down the price of crude to \$29 per barrel to cope with an international oil glut.

In another development, it was stated in Tokyo that Japan has agreed to buy 8 million tons of crude oil from China in 1983 with a \$5 a barrel price cut for the first three months of the contract. China agreed to lower its oil price by \$5 to \$28.70 for January-March shipments, the importers conference of Chinese Petroleum said. The agreement was concluded in Peking Wednesday between the China National Chemicals Import and Export Corporation and Japanese importers of Chinese crude oil.

Meanwhile, a continuing siege of oil facilities by angry peasants in the state of Tabasco, Mexico, has led to million-dollar losses and a production cut of 16,000 barrels of crude oil daily, officials of the state Pemex oil monopoly said Wednesday.

Poland expects 16% industrial growth by '85

WARSAW, March 24 (R) — Increased industrial output envisaged in a three-year economic recovery plan being discussed in Poland's parliament now still falls short of the level prior to 1980 when labor and political unrest plunged the country into chaos.

Planners, encouraged by an upward trend that appeared at the turn of the year, say they expect production in industry to be about 14 to 16 percent above the present levels by 1985. But output of most fuels, such as hard coal and natural gas, and industrial raw materials, including zinc, lead and aluminum, will lag below 1980 figures.

Exceptions are copper, expected to amount to 385,000 tons, compared with 357,300 tons in 1982, electrical energy estimated at 131 billion kilowatt-hours against 121.9 billion kilowatt-hours, and brown coal at 53 billion tons instead of 36.9 million tons in 1980. The figures appeared in a summarized version of part of the plan published by a Warsaw economic weekly, *Zycie Gospodarcze*.

Given good weather, the planners expect crop harvests in 1985 to be around eight percent higher than in 1982, and 23 to 24 percent above the disastrous 1980 yields, stricken by heavy rains and floods. Animal pro-

U.S. subsidy on food sales will continue

LONDON, March 24 (R) — The United States does not rule out the use of further subsidized food sales as a means of competing with European Economic Community export subsidies, U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block said Thursday.

But he said America did not plan to move aggressively in arranging deals like a subsidized sale of flour to Egypt now under way. In January, the United States announced the sale of a million tons of wheat flour to Egypt over a one-year period starting this month, at \$155 a ton. The European Commission said the price was \$25 to \$30 a ton below the world market price. "We keep that option open," Block said. "It's merely our way of competing with European Community subsidized sales."

Speaking at the end of a conference in London organized by *The Financial Times* and the International Wheat Council, and before his departure on a ten-day Middle East tour, Block said he would not be negotiating a similar dairy deal with Egypt on his present trip, but did not rule out any such deals in future.

Block said U.S. policy would dramatically reduce world grain stocks over the coming year, and it was now up to the European Community to play its part. Under its payment in kind program, the United States aims to cut grain production by giving surplus government-owned grain to farmers in return for leaving much of their land fallow.

Block said he hoped the European Community would consider increasing its stocking of grains to keep surpluses off the market. "We have reached the point in international trade where one grain exporting country puts grain into the export market at less than half the price received by its producers," he said without elaboration. The agriculture secretary said Wednesday that the United States may discuss world grain trade with all major exporters in the next month or so, including the European Community.

Portugal hikes bank rate by 4%

LISBON, March 24 (R) — Portugal Wednesday raised its bank rate by four percent and speeded up the monthly devaluation of the escudo in an effort to shore up the economy.

A Bank of Portugal statement said it was devaluing the escudo by an average of two percent following the latest realignment within the European Monetary System (EMS) and increasing the currency's monthly depreciation to one percent from its previous level of 0.75 percent. The escudo fell by 3.7 percent against the U.S. dollar when the Lisbon foreign exchange market reopened Wednesday after a two-day closure.

The Central Bank fixed the escudo at 97.133 to the dollar against 93.547 last Friday. The Central Bank said for months been publicly advocating a rise in domestic interest rates and a speeding up of the monthly devaluation, but the measures had been put off for political reasons in view of the forthcoming April 25 general elections.

Finance Minister Joao Salgueiro said earlier this year that these were measures a caretaker government could not take, but the Central Bank's view prevailed after the EMS realignment.

Hundreds of peasants laid siege last week to the Pemex facility in Comalcalco, 870 kms southeast of the capital, charging the plant had failed to pay for damage caused by runoff near the facility. The peasants, many camped in front of the plant to block entry of workers, are seeking \$27,000 in damages. A spokesman for Pemex said the company has already assumed responsibility in the case, but blamed the leader of the demonstrators, Eulogio Mendez Perez, for inciting the protest.

In Houston, the Sedco oil-drilling company has agreed to pay \$2.14 million in damages to a group of south Texas fishermen and resort owners affected by one of the worst oil spills in history. The Dallas-based firm owned a drilling platform involved in the June 1979 blowout in Mexico's Bay of Campeche, which spilled 134 million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico before it was capped nine months later.

Wednesday's settlement was the second reached over the spill, which contaminated more than 1,000 miles of south Texas and Mexican coastline. Earlier this month, Sedco agreed to pay the U.S. government \$2 million for cleanup costs. Sedco, which has been sued for a total of about \$400 million, agreed to the settlement despite continuing to deny liability.

Dollar maintains strength

By J.H. Hammond

JEDDAH, March 24 — The American dollar continued to be firm on the Thursday exchanges despite some active profit-taking. The Japanese yen was relatively firm and it traded at 238.50 levels after it had fallen to 241.80 on Wednesday. Market sentiment was once again swinging toward the belief that the Japanese economy would benefit the most from any further oil price cuts. The dollar's rise, however, was sustained by several factors and these all seem to point toward a belief that U.S. dollar interest rates would remain high for some time to come.

On the money markets, Eurodollar interest rates were firm at the 9 1/4 - 9 1/2 percent level for the one-month period and 9 1/4 - 9 1/2 percent for the one-year deposit. This represents a rise of around 1/4 percent for the shorter dated funds over prices two weeks ago. The money markets were of the opinion that the Federal Reserve Board would still have the fight against a rising money supply base as its number one priority.

On the bullion markets, gold and silver prices remained steady but fell back by close of business as Eurodollar deposit rates firmed. Gold prices traded at the \$417 an ounce which was higher than the \$410 levels reached on Wednesday. Silver prices traded around \$10.62 an ounce with little volatility being registered. Dealers are still worried that some price falls could be seen on the New York markets especially if the money supply figures show a rise over the previous week's \$4.8 billion.

In the exchanges, the German mark traded at 2.4250 levels, depressed by some

profit-taking sales as well as the unwinding of some previously-held long mark positions now that the European Monetary System realignments have been formalized. The French franc traded around the 7.26 - 7.27 levels but the French bourses were generally nervous and erratic and awaited fresh political developments in France after President Mitterrand's promise to cut French inflation and wipe out French trade deficit within two years. He also appealed for a campaign to "buy French" which the other member of the EEC might consider as smacking of protectionism.

In other European developments, the Belgian Central Bank cut its base rate to 11 percent from 14 percent while the Portuguese currency was devalued by around four percent against the dollar. The British pound fell to 1.4590 levels after closing at an equally record low level of 1.4680 prices in New York on Wednesday night. Once again, the Bank of England did not move aggressively to support the pound. The Swiss franc was weaker at 2.0890 levels.

In the domestic markets, rial deposit rates were firm but less volatile compared to the Wednesday movements in the short-dated funds. Week fixed deposits traded at the 7 1/2 - 8 1/2 percent. While the one-month rate traded at 8 1/2 - 9 percent, spot rial dollar deposit rates traded at 3.4400-05 levels.

The following are the closing gold prices in U.S. dollars per troy ounce:

London	415.00
Frankfurt	415.00
Zurich	416.00
Hong Kong	414.51

Soviets boost trade surplus with developing countries

MOSCOW, March 24 (R) — The Soviet Union improved its trade position last year by slashing its deficit with the West and Japan and quadrupling its surplus with the developing countries, according to provisional figures released Wednesday.

The Soviet trade deficit with the developed industrial world was cut approximately 80 percent, falling to \$137 million in 1982 from \$1,235 million in 1981, figures published in the weekly *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta* showed.

Exports to the Third World rose to \$13.9 billion from \$11.9 billion in 1981 and imports fell from \$10.7 billion to \$9.17 billion. Western experts said the boost in the trade surplus with the developing countries was largely owing to a cut in grain purchases from Argentina, which have to be paid for in hard currency.

A slightly better harvest than expected and

Comecon external debts total \$74b

VIENNA, March 24 (AFP) — External debts owed by members of the mainly East European Comecon trading bloc have fallen for the first time in 10 years to a total of \$74.3 billion at the end of 1982, the International Institute of Economic Comparative Studies has calculated here.

This compared with total debts of \$77.1 billion at the end of 1981. The report said Comecon countries had gained particularly from the strengthening of the dollar and a slight improvement in their trade balance with the West.

The Soviet Union did particularly well, reducing its debts to \$9 billion against \$12.5 billion in 1981, mainly following the sale of between 150 and 200 tons of gold, the study said.

East Germany's debts fell from \$12 to \$11.5 billion, and Bulgaria's from \$2.1 to

EEC unemployment remains static

BRUSSELS, March 24 (R) — Record postwar unemployment in the European Economic Community showed no sign of easing last month, defying expectations of a seasonal fall, the EEC statistics office said Wednesday.

The number of jobless in the 10-nation bloc was 12.4 million or 10.9 percent of the workforce, the same as in January. This was in contrast to previous years when unemployment peaked in January and then showed a seasonal decline of between one and four percent in the following month, the office said in a statement. "Just because the figures haven't changed does not mean the upward trend has been halted," one senior economist said.

West Germany showed the largest increase of two percent over January, with men accounting for almost the entire rise. This brought the male unemployment rate there to the same level as for women for the first time, the statement said. The Netherlands, Italy and Ireland were the only other countries to show small increases.

In France, however, the number of people out of work in February fell by 2.3 percent against the previous month and stood at just over two million. Greece registered a sharp reduction of almost five percent, but the statistics office said that the figures should be considered with caution because a different employment structure there prevented direct comparison.

Compared with one year ago, the Community total rose by 16 percent, with more than 1.7 million persons without jobs. West Germany again had the largest rise of almost one-third, the office said. "The trend in Germany is certainly one of the most worrying," the EEC economist said.

In France, the year-on-year rise was the smallest of the 10 member states, just under four percent.

President Reagan's decision to resume grain sales to Moscow may also have been determining factors, informed Western sources said. U.S.-Soviet trade turnover was \$3.04 billion, slightly up on the 1981 figure.

Trade turnover with Japan increased by over 20 percent to \$5.04 billion. The 1982 overall surplus was \$9.45 billion, up from \$6.16 billion in 1981, and was based on a turnover of \$163.8 billion in line with the half-year figure and Western forecasts.

The Soviet Union does not publish figures for hard currency trade alone but this is the basis for most of its trade with the West and Japan, whereas trade with its Communist allies and developing countries is mostly done on a clearing basis. The Soviet trade surplus with its East European Comecon partners dropped to \$5.0 billion from \$6.8 billion in 1981.

\$1.8 billion. Three countries held their debts at 1981 levels. They were Hungary with \$7.9 billion, Czechoslovakia \$3.7 billion and Romania \$10.5 billion.

Poland was the only East European country which experienced an increase in its debts from \$24.3 to \$26 billion. The institute forecast that Poland will not be able to service its debts before 1988.

(Representatives of Poland's foreign creditor banks met in Warsaw Monday and Tuesday mainly to discuss Poland's debt servicing.)

Comecon countries had an overall balance of payments deficit in 1982 of \$560 million. Only three countries had a surplus. They were the Soviet Union with \$3 billion, Bulgaria \$250 million and East Germany \$200 million. All the others registered deficits. Poland was worst off with a deficit of \$3 billion.

SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Authority	Description	Tender Number	Tender Price	Closing Date
Interior Ministry, Department of Jails	Renovations & electrical works at the Reformatory in Makkah	18/M/N	500	Apr. 9
" "	Carry out roof insulation for the jails of Abha, Khams Mushait, & Dhahran Al-Janoub	19/M/N	200	Apr. 10
" "	Construction of an internal fence, room, sun-shade etc. for Tabuk's jail	20/M/N	500	Apr. 11
" "	Construction of 6 halls & 5 bath-rooms for Makkah's jail	21/M/N	500	Apr. 12

PORTS AUTHORITY

JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT
SHIPS MOVEMENT UPTO 0700 HOURS ON
10TH J'ATHANI 1403/24TH MARCH, 1983

1. SHIPS DISCHARGING:

Berth	Name of Vessel	Agent	Type of Cargo	Arrival
1A	Saudi Riyadh	S.N.L.	Flats/Tires/Mobiles	22.3.83
2	Seki Rokoko	Shobokshi	Contrs/Rolls Units	22.3.83
3	Angerick	S.S.M.S.C.	Aluminum/Lumber	22.3.83
4	Rosa 'S'	El Hawi	Contrs./Steel/Gen.	20.3.83
5	Orndurman	Shobokshi	Tires/Steel/Timber	22.3.83
6	Kopalinis Moz.	A.A.	Bagged Barley	22.3.83
7	Danah	Kanoo	Contrs./Gen.	18.3.83
9	Raimer 1	El Hawi	Timber	22.3.83
10	Alexander Schroeder	A.E.T.	Containers	23.3.83
14	Reefers Star	O.C.E.	Reefers	20.3.83
15	Asia Freezer	O.C.E.	Chicken/Butter	23.3.83
16	Nordisno	Shobokshi	Containers	23.3.83
17	Italian Reefer	Rolaco	Bulk Cement	17.3.83
18	Odyseus	O.C.E.	Building Matr./Cable	22.3.83
20	Firat	S.S.M.S.C.	Timber/General	22.3.83
21	Saudi Kawther	M.E.S.A.	Timber/General	22.3.83
22	Nova Gorica	O.C.E.	Bagged Cement	23.3.83
23	Norland	M.E.S.A.	General	20.3.83
24	Saudi Enterprise	Attar	Contrs./Gen.	22.3.83
25	Bronislav Lachowicz	M.E.S.A.	General	24.3.83
27	Saudi Almedina	Star	Oranges/Lemons	22.3.83
28	Al Zahrah	Alsbah	Tiles/Marble	2
31	Affair Alsaudi IV			

KING ABDUL AZIZ PORT DAMMAM

SHIPS MOVEMENT UPTO 0700 HOURS OF
10.6.1403/24.3.1983 CHANGES FOR THE PAST 24 HOURS

1. VESSELS DISCHARGING:

Berth	Name of Vessel	Agent	Type of Cargo	Arrival
2	Budapest	Altawil	Gen./Steel	19.3.83
4	Salah Aldeen	Kanoo	General	23.3.83
5	Asia Eaho	SMC	Gen./Steel	19.3.83
6	Ming Autumn	Gulf	Gen./Timber	22.3.83
7	Shaymathree	OCE	General	22.3.83
8	Tarponanistago	Kanoo	General	22.3.83
10	Evermoreascant	Kanoo	Steel/Gen.	20.3.83
12	Kashi Maru	Shobokshi	Steel	19.3.83
14	Jasmine	SEA	Gen./Rice	21.3.83
15	Chanab	Gulf	General	18.3.83
16	Hellenic Patriot	Gulf	General	23.3.83
17	Jagahadi	SMC	Gen./Steel	19.3.83
18	K Jastzble	Orr	Barley	21.3.83
19	Deccan Pioneer	Orr	Barley	22.3.83
22	Evelyn Maersk	Kanoo	Gen./Cont.	23.3.83
23	Jollyurchase	Gosailb	Containers	23.3.83
25	Hual Trepper	Kanoo	Cars	24.3.83
26	Fumura	Saito	Flour	22.3.83
32	Ibn Yunus	Kanoo	Gen./Cont.	23.3.83
32	Yidu	Orr	General	23.3.83

Foreign Exchange Rates

Quoted at 5:00 p.m. Thursday	Cash	Transfer
Bahraini Dinar	9.20	9.10
Bangladesh Taka	14.21	14.03
Belgian Franc (1,000)	74.00	71.83
Canadian Dollar		2.82
Deutsche Mark (100)	143.25	142.85
Dutch Guilder (100)	128.50	127.51
Egyptian Pound	3.06	3.02
Emirates Dirham (100)	93.25	94.60
French Franc (100)	48.00	47.75
Greek Drachma (1,000)	38.00	41.50
Indian Rupee (100)		34.53
Iranian Ryal (100)		
Iraqi Dinar	5.80	
Italian Lira (10,000)	24.04	24.00
Japanese Yen (1,000)	15.30	14.24
Jordanian Dinar	9.70	9.58
Kuwait Dinar	11.83	11.79
Lebanese Lira (100)	84.25	84.00
Moroccan Dirham (100)	51.00	52.86
Pakistani Rupee (100)	28.10	26.58
Philippines Peso (100)		36.10
Pound Sterling	5.08	5.05
Qatari Ryal (100)	94.25	94.60
Singapore Dollar (100)		164.85
Spanish Peseta (1,000)		25.50
Swiss Franc (100)	167.50	166.70
Syrian Lira (100)	60.00	61.60
Turkish Lira (1,000)		
U.S. Dollar	3.45	3.44
Yemeni Ryal (100)	75.15	75.10

Islam in perspective

Commentary by Sayyid Qutb

Life of the Prophet-103

Al-Mustalaq: successful expedition and aftermath

By Adil Salahi

What the Qur'an teaches

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Beneficent

They said, 'O Houd, you have brought us no clear proof. We are not forsaking our gods on your mere word, nor are we going to believe in you. All we can say is that some god of ours may have smitten you with something evil.' He said: 'I call Allah to witness, and do you also bear witness, that I dissociate myself from all those you claim to be partners to Allah. Scheme against me, all of you, if you will, and give me no respite. Indeed I have placed my trust in Allah, my Lord and your Lord. There is no living creature which He does not hold by its forelock. Straight indeed is the path of my Lord. If you turn away, still I have delivered to you the message with which I was sent to you. My Lord may replace you with another people. You can do Him no harm. My Lord watches over all things.'

And so, when Our judgment came to pass, We by Our grace, saved Houd and those who shared his faith. We have indeed saved them from brutal suffering. Such were Aad. They denied the revelations of their Lord, disobeyed His messengers, and followed the bidding of every arrogant, unrestrained tyrant. They were pursued by a curse in this world and on the Day of Judgment. Indeed, Aad denied their Lord. Oh, away with Aad, the people of Houd.

(Houd: 11: 53-60)

Why Aad were destroyed?

It is clear from the opening verses in this passage that Houd's people had gone so far astray that they thought him to be a deranged, after one of their deities had smitten him with something evil. They made the point that Houd did not bring them any clear evidence of his message. Little did they consider that no evidence is needed to prove the oneness of Allah. All that people need to accept this truism is to be properly reminded and directed on how they should think. They only needed to consult their consciences. They were, however, not prepared to do that. They told their messenger point blank that they were not prepared to abandon their false gods just because Houd was encouraging them to do so, without having given them a clear proof of the truthfulness of his message. They simply did not believe him.

There was little Houd could do at this point apart from throwing a challenge to them and to put his trust entirely in Allah and to give a final warning to those who denied him and his message, dissociating himself completely from their erring practices.

His statement, as related in this passage, shows how he cut himself completely from them, despite the fact that they were his people and he was their brother. He was not happy to stay among them when they have chosen a way different from that of Allah. The two sides could not have any tie between them when the tie of faith had been severed. Houd asked Allah to be his witness as he dissociated himself from his people and abandoned them altogether. He indeed asked them to be his witnesses as he declared to them that he was going his own separate way, so that they could have no doubt as to his final attitude. Throughout, Houd had the dignity, confidence and reassurance which faith imparts.

Indeed, Houd's attitude is very impressive as he, single-handedly confronted his people who were gigantic in stature, rough, impertinent and so ignorant as to believe that their false idols could possess anyone with evil or cause him to be deranged. They even considered Houd's call which attri-

buted godhead to Allah alone, as madness. For any man to confront such people who were so blindly confident that their beliefs were correct, pointing out to them that they were false and rebuking them for having such beliefs, is indeed so remarkable. Houd, however, did not stop at that. He threw a challenge to them asking them to allow him no time to get ready and giving them no time to calm down. It is indeed amazing that a single man could embark on such a confrontation with people who combined power and roughness as their basic qualities. Our amazement disappears when we consider Houd's causes for such a confrontation. Houd's attitude was one of a man full of faith in Allah, confident that Allah's promises are always fulfilled, assured of His support. It is faith so strong that Allah's promise of support becomes a tangible reality in which there can be no doubt. He can see it and feel it. It is not a promise for the future which is unknown; it is a reality which is there to see and feel.

He said: I call Allah to witness, and do you also bear witness, that I dissociate myself from all those you claim to be partners to Allah. I call Allah to be my witness that I am innocent of all those you associate with Him as His partners. You also should testify for me that I have declared to you that I disclaim all your false gods. Assemble together, all of you and all your invented gods whom you claim to have smitten me with evil and scheme together against me, giving me not a moment's notice, for I do not fear anything from you. Indeed I have placed my trust in Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Your denials and rejection notwithstanding, the truth remains that Allah is the Lord of all of us. He is indeed the only Lord of the universe. He has no partners.

There is no living creature which He does not hold by its forelock. This is a very real image of Allah's power. It portrays Him as holding every creature that walks on earth by its forelock, whether man or animal. He has indeed power over them all. His power is depicted so vividly because such a vivid picture fits well with the strength, roughness and insensibility of the people Houd was

addressing. This is followed by a statement that divine laws never fail: Straight indeed is the path of my Lord. All this, then, combines together real strength, straightforwardness and determination on Houd's part.

The secret of this dignified attitude and the challenge made by Houd can be found in these firm words which depict the nature of the truth as deeply and clearly felt by him. His Lord, who is also the Lord of all creation, is too powerful: There is no living creature which He does not hold by its forelock. Those rough giants of Houd's people are no more than creatures whom Allah holds by their forelocks. Why should he fear any thing which they may cause when they cannot have power over him unless Allah wills? Why indeed should he consider himself to belong to them when he follows an entirely different route from theirs? (Perhaps we should add here that the word used in the Qur'an for "living creature" generally refers to animals. In its broader use, as in this instance, it refers to all living creatures. The shades of its narrower meaning, i.e. animals, are always present.)

As the advocate of Allah's cause feels this truth within himself, he is left with no doubt as to his own destiny. He feels no hesitation to go along his way. The truth we mean here is that a godhead which is clearly felt by those who truly believe in Allah.

When Houd has made his challenge, relying on Allah's might which he portrays in its most majestic form, he warns his people explaining to them that he has done his duty, conveyed his message and has left them to face Allah's power: If you turn away, still I have delivered to you the message with which I was sent to you. My Lord may replace you with another people. Such people would be more worthy of Allah's message because they follow His guidance after Houd's people have been punished and destroyed by their errors. They have no power to cause Allah any harm. Their departure leaves no vacuum whatsoever. And Allah will surely protect His good servants and enforce His laws. The wicked can have no escape: You can do him no harm. My Lord watches over all things.

This was the decisive word. All argument is over and the warnings are fulfilled: When Our judgment came to pass, We, by Our grace, saved Houd and those who shared his faith. We have indeed saved them from brutal suffering. Houd and his followers were saved by a direct act of Allah's mercy which singled them out and kept them safe from the general punishment which engulfed their people. The punishment is described here as "brutal suffering" because this description fits with the general atmosphere and with the fact that Houd's people were rough tyrants. Now that Aad have been destroyed reference is made to them indicating that they have been far removed. Their crimes are recorded against them and they have been pursued with a curse: Such were Aad. They are now far away, although, a moment ago they have been shown engulfed by their punishment. Yet they are gone where they are lost and forgotten. They denied the revelations of their Lord, disobeyed His messengers. They have disobeyed only one messenger, but since all Allah's messengers have preached

the same message whoever disobeys one messenger disobeys them all. The use of the plural in reference to revelations and messengers has also a stylistic purpose. Their crime is made to look much more horrid and ghastly when we realize that they have denied revelations and disobeyed messengers. And followed the bidding of every arrogant, unrestrained tyrant. They are required to liberate themselves from the tyranny of anyone who want to impose his authority over them. They must think for themselves and exercise their freedom of choice. They cannot just waste their humanity by accepting the role of blind followers of anyone.

Aad were destroyed because they slavishly followed arrogant tyrants. They were also cursed: They were pursued by a curse in this world and on the Day of Judgment. Then the sheet of their indictment is made absolutely clear: Indeed, Aad denied their Lord. They are, then, expelled and dispatched far away. This is made in clear, firm words which serve as the title of the curse pursuing them: Oh, away with Aad, the people of Houd.

Thus we realize that the issue between Houd and Aad was that of Allah's Lordship over all people, and their submission to Him alone. It is the issue of who has the authority to legislate. Who is the Lord to whom all must submit? This is apparent in Allah's words, rendered in translation: Such were Aad. They denied the revelations of their Lord, disobeyed His messengers, and followed the bidding of every arrogant unrestrained tyrant. They were punished for their disobedience of Allah's messenger and their following of the bidding of tyrants. Islam, on the other hand, requires its followers to obey the messengers, because their bidding comes from Allah. At the same time, Muslims must also disobey all tyrants. This is indeed the parting of the ways between Islam and Ignorance, submission to Allah and denial of His message.

It is abundantly clear, then, that the message of Allah's unity emphasizes first of all the need to liberate man from submission to anyone other than Allah, and the need to revolt against the authority of all tyrants who impose themselves as gods. It considers the forfeiture of freedom by the blind following of tyrants, a capital crime of disbelief and denial of Allah, the perpetrators of which deserve to be destroyed in this life and to be punished in the hereafter. Allah has created man to be free, to worship no fellow creature and to maintain his freedom in the face of any chief or leader. This is the essence of man's nobility. If man does not protect it he deserves no kindness from Allah. No community of people can claim to have any degree of dignity and humanity when they submit themselves to anyone other than Allah. Those who do submit to fellow creatures, and obey their legislation, cannot be excused for being overpowered and having no choice. After all, they are the majority while the tyrants are a small minority. If the majority wants to liberate themselves they need only to sacrifice a small portion of what they actually do sacrifice at the altar of the tyrants. They pay them willingly the tax of being humiliated in every respect.

The setbacks suffered by the Muslims at Uhud, Al-Rajie and Bir Maconah were perhaps wiped off the memories of both the Muslims and their enemies by the successful campaigns launched by the Muslims against both their enemies, both internal and external. Following each other in quick succession, these campaigns re-established the reputation of the Muslims as a fighting force which does not cover off in the face of any challenge. Hence, the enemies of Islam had to reconsider their strategy. Up until that time their hostility was open and direct. Now, some of the enemies of Islam, at least, recognized the need to change their tactics.

In Madinah, some of its Arab inhabitants were resorting to hypocrisy right from the early days of the establishment of the Muslim state. They recognized at the time that they could not go against the wishes of a large portion of their community who accepted the new religion. They, therefore, pretended to be Muslims, hoping to share the gains of Islam if and when it met with success. Deep inside, however, they did not believe in Allah or His messenger. They were ready to join forces with any enemy of Islam seeking to nip it in the bud. Yet, they had always to adopt shifty grounds. They could not afford to throw their lot completely with the enemies of Islam. They did not have the necessary strength and courage to make their feelings clear and to join the other enemies of Islam in an open campaign.

Over the last few years, the hypocrites in Madinah were playing a dirty game against the Muslims. Their wickedness and hatred of Islam surfaced whenever the Muslims suffered a setback. On the other hand, they were quick to suppress their true feelings and claim to be loyal to Islam and to the Prophet whenever the Muslims achieved a significant victory. This, however, did not prevent the hypocrites from resorting to taunts and ridicule and spreading false rumors against the Muslims, whenever they had an opportunity to do so. Indeed, the hypocrites' hatred of Islam increased in proportion to how more firmly established the authority of the Muslims became. We have seen how they tried to persuade the Jews to fight the Muslims, pledging them their own support. They, however, did not fulfill their promises when they realized that the Muslims' victory was inevitable.

The hypocrites continued to try to make others fight Islam. As for their own efforts in the attempt to defeat Islam, they preferred to work from within. Perhaps the best example of their tactics and treachery is provided by the events of the Prophet's expedition against the tribe of Al-Mustalaq.

The Prophet received information that the tribe of Al-Mustalaq, under the leadership of its chief Al-Harith ibn Abu Dhitr, was preparing to launch an attack on Madinah. In keeping with his successful strategy of surprising his enemies before they had time to launch their attack on Madinah, the Prophet marched at the head of a large force of Muslims, heading toward his enemies. It was the beautiful and handsome articles, whether as clothing or ornaments. Allah says in the Qur'an: "Children of Adam, put on your adornment for every act of worship, and eat and drink, but do not waste. Indeed, Allah does not love the wasteful. Say: 'Who is there to forbid the beauty which Allah has brought forth for His creatures, and the good things from among the means of sustenance?' Say: 'They are lawful in the life of this world unto all the believers — to be theirs alone on resurrection day.'" (7: 31-32) This clearly indicates that what we may term as "luxury items" are not forbidden, unless they are made of gold or silk.

Your question raises another point which must be tackled separately, namely, showing off. To adopt an attitude of showing off, in any circumstances, is forbidden. The prohibition here is based on the injury such an action causes to others. But showing off can have a much wider area than wearing expensive articles. Indeed, the two need not be inter-related. One can wear fine and expensive things without adding an air of haughtiness to his behavior. Conversely, one can be haughty, lofty and disdainful of others although he may wear the cheapest of articles. This is, indeed, an attitude of mind which one adopts consciously. It is, therefore, forbidden because of its ill-effect on society.

Having said that, I should add that a person who is rich enough to wear expensive and luxurious items should not overlook his duty which Allah has imposed on rich people.

EVENTS OF ISLAMIC HISTORY 022 AH

— The year began on Saturday, Nov. 30, 642 A.C.

— Umar ibn al Aas marched from Ashkandariya toward the west and conquered Barqa. Further he moved to Tripoli and conquered it after a siege of one month.

— On the eastern front many expeditions were sent for controlling a territory between India and Iraq.

— Husayn ibn al Yaman re-established the Muslim rule in Damsir.

— Muslim bin Muqri captured Hamadan and Rayne.

— Qazween and Zanjan fell into the hands of Muqri bin Shuiba.

— Bukair bin Abdullah took over Azerbaijan.

— Surraq bin Amir captured Qozaz and Bah.

— Ahmad bin Qais marched upon Khurasan (Afghanistan) and conquered Herat.

— On the northern front Amr Moawiyah marched and conquered Saffa in the Roman territory.

— Abu Tariq Hajazi

Belief in all Prophets

By Adil Salahi

Every Muslim must believe in all messengers sent by Allah, making no distinction between them. This means that to a Muslim all the Prophets, sent by Allah as His messengers, have preached the same message and called for the same faith: to believe in Allah as the only god in the universe who has created all and is the Lord of all. They also called on mankind to believe in the day of judgment, when they will stand in front of Allah who will hold them answerable for all they do on this earth. It is clear, then, that the messages of all Prophets were basically the same. They differed only in legislative details, while in matters of faith they were consistently similar.

Twentyfive of Allah's messengers are mentioned by name in the Qur'an. There are others whom Allah has chosen not to mention to us. He has indicated, however, that every community or nation has been sent a messenger or a warner to make Allah's message known to them. This fits well with the overall Islamic concept of the role of the Prophets and the provision of divine guidance to all people. This guidance could not have been provided so effectively in any other way. Allah has chosen the method of sending Prophets and messengers because, aware of all things as He is, He knows that this is the method which is most suitable to guide man to the right path.

Eighteen of the twentyfive messengers mentioned in the Qur'an are grouped in the following verses, though not in chronological order: "Such was the argument with which We furnished Abraham against his people. We raised by degrees when we will. Your Lord is truly wise, all knowing. We gave him Isaac and Jacob; and we guided each of them as we had guided Noah aforetime. Out of his offspring, (We bestowed Prophethood upon) David, Solomon, Job, Joseph, Moses and Aaron: for thus do we reward the doers of good; and Zacharia, John, Jesus and Elias: everyone of them was of the righteous; and Ismail, Elisha, Jonah and Lot. Everyone of them did we favor above other people." (6:83-86) The other seven are mentioned in different verses in the Qur'an. They are: Adam, Houd, Salih, Shuaib, Ishmael, Idris (or Enoch), Thulkuf and Muhammad.

In the Islamic sense, a messenger is a human being, who is sent normally to his own community in the first instance. The fact that he is human cannot be over stressed. He eats and drinks, walks about in the streets, earns his living, gets married and begets children and he is generally subject to everything that may happen to any person. He may be ill at one time, healthy at another; he may feel strong one day, weak on another; he enjoys happy things and is pained by whatever is painful. He lives for a certain period and then dies. Allah, however, has granted His messengers immunity from anything which causes other people to dislike their company.

Having said that, I must emphasize that all Prophets are Allah's chosen people. They set the example for all mankind in every virtue: honesty, sincerity, truthfulness, devotion, purity of conduct, and freedom from all sins, grave or small. Some of them are mentioned in the Qur'an to have received special favor from Allah. Some of them were carefully educated and highly exalted. All of them, however, are equal in having attained the zenith of spiritual exaltation and maintained a pure relationship with Allah. They are immune from sin. Hence, they set the example for the rest of mankind.

Some Prophets have been distinguished for exceptional merit. They are described in the Qur'an as having extra strength and resolve. Those who come into this category are Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (Peace be on them all).

The most distinguished of Allah's messengers is certainly our Prophet, Muhammad. He is indeed the final Prophet who brought the line of Prophethood to its completion. This, however, must not be taken as justification for any disrespect to any one of Allah's messengers. They must always be viewed with the highest degree of respect as people chosen by Allah to be the teachers of mankind. Their work was complimentary to one another. The Prophet compares his position in the line of Prophethood as that of a final brick in a fine structure. "I and the other Prophets before me can be compared to a building built by a man who has made every effort to make his building perfect, with the exception of a single brick. Everyone who went into that house wonders at its perfection, except for that missing brick. I am that. With me the line of Prophethood is made complete."

All this goes to show that as Muslims we believe in all Prophets, without distinction. Indeed, the Qur'an is emphatic in its requirement of belief in all Prophets. None is to be excluded. Anyone who says that he believes in some Prophets to the exclusion of others is considered to be a non-believer. "Those who deny Allah and His messengers, endeavoring to make a distinction between Allah and His messengers, and who say, 'We believe in some and we deny the others,' and want to pursue a path in between, are disbelievers indeed: for the disbelievers We have prepared a shameful suffering. But as for those who believe in Allah and His messengers and make no distinction between any of them, to them, in time, will He grant their reward in full." (4:150-152) The same idea is further emphasized in another verse: "The Messenger, and the believers with him, believe in what has been bestowed on him from on high by his Lord: they all believe in Allah, His angels, His revelations, His messengers, making no distinction between any of His messengers; and they say: 'We have heard, and we pay heed. Grant us your forgiveness, our Lord; to You we shall all return.'" (2:285)

Are the Shi'a Muslims?

Q. Most of the Indian Muslims and their religious leaders consider the Shi'a to be non-Muslims, despite the fact that they believe in the Qur'an and the Oneness of Allah and the message of Muhammad. Of course the Shi'a take a very unfavorable view of the caliphs and of the companions of the Prophet generally. Is this enough reason to consider them non-Muslims?

S.A. Khan
P.O. Box 1488
Jeddah.

A. It is the considered opinion of most institutions of Islamic scholarship that the Shi'a who believe in the twelve Imams are Muslims. Although there are basic differences between the Sunnis and the Shi'a, which go far beyond differences among schools of thought, the general opinion of Muslim scholars has over the years been that the Shi'a belong to Islam.

The Shi'a, however, are not a single group. There are numerous schools of thought among them. Some of these have introduced certain beliefs which are contrary to Islam. Some have shrunk within themselves so that the outside world knows very little about them and about their beliefs. When we say, therefore, that the Shi'a are Muslims we do not include among them such groups as have gone beyond the pale of Islam. Of these we can mention the names of the Druz, the Nusairis and the Ismaelis whom we cannot, on the basis of their beliefs, include among Muslims. The major schools of thought among the Shi'a, like the Imamis and the Zaidis are certainly Muslims. The Imamis Shi'a are predominant in Iran and among the Shi'a population of Iraq, as in well as other places, while the Zaidis live in large numbers in the Yemen. These two schools constitute the predominant trend among the Shi'a while the other apostate groups live in small concentrations in different parts of the Muslim world.

Wearing gold and silk

Q. Your explanation concerning the prohibition of wearing gold articles by men (Jan. 14, 1983) has left me somewhat confused but I should be grateful for your clarification. The Prophet forbade men to wear gold and silk because, I believe, these were the only precious and luxury items available in those days. In my opinion, by this he did not mean gold and silk only, but all luxurious items which advertise one's financial position.

I have seen many wealthy Muslims wearing expensive gems, diamonds, watches, dresses or using expensive cars which not only cause the poor a twinge of pain as they look at their rich fellow Muslims, but also cause an ever widening gap between the rich and the poor. We know very well that Islam works hard to minimize such a gap. I hope you will kindly educate me in this matter so that I can clear

my confusion.

Muhammad Akhtuzzaman
P.O. Box 1659
Jeddah.

A. Our approach to what Allah has forbidden us must always be one of acceptance and satisfaction that Allah forbids only what is harmful, physically, socially or morally, and that He has not left out anything of importance without making clear to us His ruling concerning it. An important rule in matters which are forbidden or made expressly lawful is that if the judgment is based explicitly on a certain reason which is made clear then the ruling is valid as long as the reason obtains. Where no reason is expressly made for a certain ruling then the ruling is valid for all time.

Another important rule of Islamic legislation is that where specific items are made the subject of a certain ruling, which may be either permission or prohibition, then the same ruling cannot be extended to other items unless the ruling itself is based on certain reasons which are clearly applicable to other items. In this connection we may give the example of the Prophet's pronouncement: "People are partners in three things: water, grazing grass and fire." This pronouncement indicates that only these three items are common property. Advocates of socialism try to make use of this pronouncement to seek endorsement of socialism by Islam. They claim that since these matters are of great importance to the public then anything which is of similar importance must be nationalized. In the Islamic sense, this is rubbish. The fact that the Prophet specified the items which are common property and specified their number as well means that this ruling applies only to these three items and not to anything else. There is a different Islamic ruling which concerns the natural resources of the land. Advocates of socialism must justify what they call for on the basis of their own arguments. They must not try to give socialism an Islamic dress when socialism, like all other man-made philosophies and creeds, is in conflict with Islam.

Concerning silk and gold, the prohibition is stated in the Prophet's pronouncement when he held gold in one hand and silk in the other and said: "These two are forbidden for the men of my nation, lawful for their women." He did not specify the reason for this prohibition. We can deduce the reasons certainly, but whatever we deduce is not considered final and exclusive in the sense that the prohibition applies only when these reasons we have deduced are valid. The prohibition remains for all time. The fact the Prophet's pronouncement specified these two items means that the prohibition applies to them only.

I must stress quite clearly that no other item can be prohibited on the basis of this pronouncement of the Prophet, regardless of its value in the market or its exotic appearance. After all, it is not forbidden to wear

custom of the Prophet when he went on an expedition of any kind to have at least one of his wives with him. He would have a toss among them to decide which of them was to join him. This time he took with him Aisha.

This expedition was also noteworthy for the large number of hypocrites who joined the Muslim army. The hypocrites normally did not join any Muslim army. We have seen how, in the battle of Uhud, their leader, Abdullah ibn Ubai, deserted the army before the battle with three hundred of his followers. After that the hypocrites did not participate in any other expedition until the Prophet moved against the tribe of Al-Mustalaq.

There were two obvious reasons for the change of tactics by the hypocrites. Recent encounters between Muslims and their enemies were all successful. Moreover, the Muslims won with little bloodshed. There was no reason why the same should not happen again this time. The coming clash was with a single Arab tribe who was, perhaps, no match to the Muslims. Success and a large booty were to be expected. The hypocrites felt they had little to lose if they joined the Muslim army. Indeed there was the possibility of sharing the booty if they went.

The other reason was perhaps a secret kept in the minds of the leaders of the hypocrites. After all, they were always looking out for an opportunity to undermine the Muslims. Such an opportunity might well arise in an expedition of this sort. Moreover, by joining the Muslim army, the hypocrites would reduce their alienation from the Muslim community.

Many of them who were not known to be hypocrites felt that they would ally any suspicion as to their sincerity by joining the army. This would even help them more in their plotting against Islam.

The Muslim army marched until they reached a water spring called Al-Marissie where Al-Harith and his men had gathered. There are two different reports of the events that took place. The first account, which is perhaps less authentic, speaks of the Prophet asking his companion Umar ibn Al-Khattab to call on the people of Al-Mustalaq to accept Islam. He stood out and shouted to them asking them to declare that they believed in Allah as the only god and they would be safe, and their properties untouched. They declined the offer and both sides started to throw their arrows against each other. After a while the Prophet ordered his companions to go on the attack. In no time, they overwhelmed their enemies who surrendered en masse after ten of their numbers had been killed. Only one Muslim soldier was killed — and that too by mistake. Thus the whole tribe with all its belongings were taken over by the Muslims.

The other account which, on balance, seems to be more accurate suggests that the Muslims took their enemies by surprise and attacked them while they were encamping close to the water spring. Whichever account was true there was no doubt with regard to the results of the expedition. The tribe as a whole had fallen prisoner to the Muslims.

According to the traditions which prevailed at the time in Arabia and outside it, prisoners of war were to become slaves. This applied to both men and women. Two hundred families of Al-Mustalaq faced the fate of slavery as a result of their ill-considered plan to attack the Muslims. I hasten to emphasize here that such a prospect was not as terrible as we tend to think nowadays. Slaves in the Muslim state enjoyed all their human rights as fellow human beings to their masters. This was true only in the land of Islam. Islam treats every individual as a human being who is susceptible to be a good servant of Allah. Hence, no one is despised or looked down upon simply because he lacked in fortune or circumstances.

The Prophet, however, did not like this prospect for his vanquished enemies. His primary thoughts did not follow the tendencies of kings and emperors. First and foremost, he was a messenger from Allah whose task was to save mankind from subjugation to false gods. He did not view the financial well-being of the Muslim community as his top priority. He realized that an act of kindness might win over the heart of yesterday's enemy.

Yet the Prophet could not enact a special legislation for the tribe of Al-Mustalaq. As long as slavery was an international practice, the Muslims could not abolish it unilaterally. If any Muslims ever fell prisoners in a battle they would have been enslaved by their enemies. Hence, enemy prisoners had to be treated likewise. Yet the situation called for an immediate action to help Al-Mustalaq people before it was too late.

The Prophet played a master stroke which brought about the desired result without any adverse repercussions. Among the women taken prisoners was Barrah, the daughter of Al-Harith, the chief of Al-Mustalaq. The Prophet took her to himself, granted her her freedom from slavery and proposed to her. When she accepted he married her and renamed her Juwairiyah. When the Muslims realized what the Prophet had done they felt that they could not keep the people of Al-Mustalaq as their slaves. The whole tribe was considered to be relatives of the Prophet now that he had married one of their women. This is in keeping with the tribal traditions of Arabia. So, all the Muslims who had slaves from Al-Mustalaq voluntarily set them free. The Muslims loved the Prophet more than they loved themselves. Hence, it was natural that they did not like to have his relatives as their slaves. Thus, Juwairiyah was celebrated by her tribe as a woman of unparalleled blessing. She was the cause of their change of fortunes from slavery to freedom. Shortly afterward, many of them embraced Islam.

So far, the events of the expedition of Al-Mustalaq were highly satisfactory to the Muslims. But this was not to last long. The hypocrites were quick on the act to mar the Muslims' achievement. We will explain this next week, Allah willing.

And jump to sixth position

Spurs stamp their mark on Villa

LONDON, March 24 (Agencies) — Mark Falco stole new signing Alan Brazil's thunder with two goals to give Tottenham Hotspur a crucial 2-0 win over Aston Villa at White Hart Lane in an English League Division One clash Wednesday night.

However, Brazil, the 500,000-pound former Ipswich striker making his home debut, created Falco's first after 35 minutes. The result means that the London club jump to sixth position in the English First Division — well poised to qualify for next season's UEFA Cup. Only 20,000 watched the match.

Brazil was in sparkling form but frequently out of synchronization with the rest of his teammates.

Steve Walford's first goal of the season, ten minutes from time, saved Norwich City a precious point at home to Coventry Walford, in only his second game back after suspension, lobbed the ball home from 20 yards, to level

the scores after Steve Whitton had fired Coventry into a 68th minute lead.

Wrexham will meet Swansea City in the final of the Welsh Cup. They made sure of a home and away final clash with John Toshack's team by drawing 0-0 at home to Caernarvon Town, after having beaten the "minnows" on their ground.

In Scotland, the Glasgow "Derby" between Celtic and Rangers ended in a disappointing 0-0 draw but the point was enough to enable Celtic to climb back to the top of the Scottish Premier Division, thanks to a better goal difference than Aberdeen. Aberdeen's away match with Hibernian in Edinburgh was postponed owing to a waterlogged ground.

Meanwhile, English teams Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United are lined up for a close-season clash — in Swaziland.

The original plan for Liverpool and Manchester United to play a series of summer

matches in South Africa was vetoed by the Football Association, and Liverpool have now dropped out. Now the football festival has been switched to nearby Swaziland, a member of FIFA, and Spurs have agreed to take Liverpool's place. The match will be played in June.

Tottenham secretary Peter Day confirmed: "We have accepted the invitation. We have had clearance from both the F.A. and FIFA and there are no political problems — otherwise we would not be going."

He would not reveal the financial carrot offered but said: "Any summer tours we undertake have to have the right sort of monetary rewards."

In Paris, France and the Soviet Union drew 1-1 in an entertaining friendly soccer international in the Parc des Princes Stadium Wednesday. France, showing a lot of changes from the side which finished fourth in the World Cup, will be pleased with the performances of new recruits Luis Fernandez, Jean-Marc Ferreri and Loic Amisse.

After surviving an early French onslaught, the Soviet Union gradually took control and it was no surprise when Tchernomkov opened the scoring on the half-hour mark. But the French, who will host the 1984 European Championship, came roaring back under the inspiration of Michel Platini. Platini, who plays for Italian giants Juventus, set up the equalizers in the 43rd minute with a delicate back heel to Fernandez, who drove home with consummate ease.

Central defender Dave Watson, 36, a veteran of 600 English League and Cup games, will join the back line of the Vancouver Whitecaps, the North American Soccer League club said Wednesday.

Watson, from Stoke City, has played 65 games for England. He signed a standard NASL two-year contract with a two-year option. Terms were not disclosed.

Watson, who will be available for the Whitecaps' Spring Cup game April 17 against the New York Cosmos, has also played in England for Notts County, Rotherham, Sunderland, Manchester City and Southampton.



Mark Falco... nets both for Spurs

In Milk Cup final

United could upset Liverpool's appletart

LONDON, March 24 (AP) — Liverpool and Manchester United, two of the proudest and most famous names in English soccer, clash Saturday to decide the season's first major domestic trophy — the Milk Cup, formerly known as the League Cup.

All 92,000 tickets have been sold for the Wembley final between the two northern giants with Bob Paisley, in his last season as Liverpool manager, attempting to win the Cup for a record third consecutive time.

For Liverpool, victory will be a well-earned bonus to add to what will surely be yet another First Division championship. With one quarter of the league season remaining, only a miracle will stop Paisley's men — a staggering 13 points clear of their nearest rivals — from retaining the title.

On paper, the match should be an entertaining showpiece between two teams studied with international stars. Each has a combination on aggression, style in midfield and some deadly goal scorers up front. Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush — the First Division's leading marksman — for Liverpool, Frank Stapleton and the prodigious Norman Whiteside, not yet 18, for United.

United, whose fanatical supporters have

been starved of success since the F.A. Cup — the country's premier knockout competition — went to Old Trafford in 1977, are at last developing again into one of the nation's most feared sides.

As well as Saturday's Milk Cup final appearance, Ron Atkinson's team has also reached next month's semifinals of the F.A. Cup and is placed third in the league standings. Although Liverpool will start slight favorites Saturday, a United victory will be no major upset.

Manchester's task, however, is bound to be hindered by the absence of England midfielder Bryan Robson, arguably the most accomplished all-round player in the country. Robson, who injured ankle ligaments playing against Arsenal in the semi-final last month, has failed to recover in time. His place is almost certain to go to England colleague Ray Wilkins, who has been unable to find a regular place in the team since returning from injury himself. Liverpool expects to have Graeme Souness, who sat out Tuesday night's match at Brighton, back in midfield after a calf strain.

Although Saturday's Wembley encounter overshadows the league program, the team

sandwiched between Liverpool and Manchester United at the top. Watford, will be hoping to consolidate its second place at the expense of Stoke.

But the gritty midlands outfit provides tough opposition on its home ground, where it has lost only three times this season, and Watford will do well to earn a draw.

All the relegation-threatened sides have home matches. Improving Norwich would appear to have the best chance of victory against suspect travelers West Ham while Birmingham, with only six wins all term, could well beat an inconsistent Notts County.

One of the most attractive matches should be on the south coast where Brighton's recent form has belied its place at the bottom of the standings. Semifinalists in the F.A. Cup, the seaside club squandered a two-goal lead against mighty Liverpool on Tuesday and had to settle for a draw. On Saturday, it again hosts formidable opposition in the shape of fourth-placed Aston Villa, last season's winner of the European Champions Cup.

Other First Division matches pit Everton against Arsenal, Luton against Sunderland, Nottingham Forest against Southampton and Swansea against West Bromwich.

For four-day tie against Guyana

Gavaskar back at India's helm

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, March 24 (AFP) — Sunil Gavaskar, India's leading run-scorer in Test cricket whose form so far on their West Indian tour has been one of the major disappointments, takes over the captaincy for the four-day match against Guyana starting here Thursday.

Tour captain Kapil Dev is resting and vice-captain Syed Kirmani has been sidelined by a sprained ankle sustained when playing tennis three days ago. Gavaskar, deposed as captain after the recent disastrous series against Pakistan, which India lost 3-0 and replaced for this tour by all-rounder Kapil Dev, has been only a shadow of the batsman who plundered West Indian bowling on two previous tours of the Caribbean in 1971 and 1976. Many feel it is only a temporary loss of form which he will put right soon.

The Indians have won both their previous games against territorial teams, beating Trinidad and Tobago by an innings and the Windwards by 129 runs.

Guyana are the 1983 West Indies champions in both the Shell Shield four-day competition and the Geddes Grant / Harrison Line limited-overs trophy competition.

West Indies captain Clive Lloyd, who led them to both titles, is resting and former West Indies Test player, 40-year-old Roy Fredericks who hit 103 and 217 in two innings on

his return to Shield cricket this season, is standing down so that younger players will have the chance and batsman Monte Lynch, who plays for Surrey in the English County Championship, has returned to England.

This is the last match for the Indians before the second of the three One-Day international series on Tuesday and the third Test against the West Indies starting March 29.

MacFarlane's call to ignore cash lure

LONDON, March 24 (AFP) — British Sports Minister Neil MacFarlane Wednesday urged Britain's sporting organizations to tell their players to reject attractive cash offers to take part in sport in South Africa.

He warned in parliament that "short-term financial inducements" could cause "lasting damage to the reputations" of governing bodies and "disrupt successful Commonwealth sporting links."

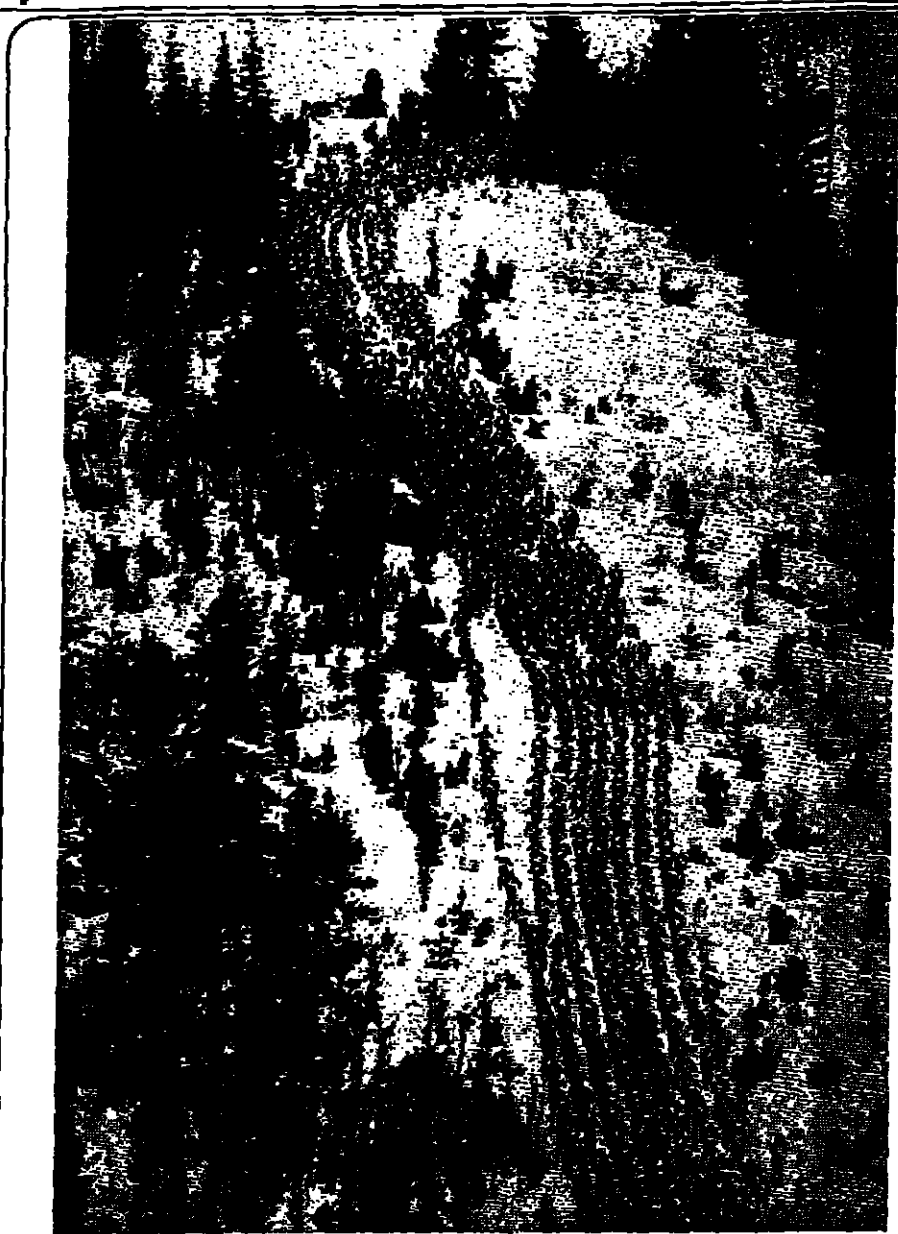
The call to bodies such as the Football Association (F.A.) and the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) came in parliament after MPs condemned "financial inducements" to encourage British sportsmen and women to play in South Africa.

MacFarlane said: "I can only hope that everybody will recognize the potential seriousness of what is happening, and the deep impact it could have on relationships elsewhere. I can only hope governing bodies will draw to the attention of their players the need to reject these short-term financial inducements."

For the opposition Labor Party, Denis Howell said he had ascertained that between five and six million pounds had been offered to sportsmen last year "for the purpose of undermining and severely damaging British sporting interests."

The former Labor sports minister said the next Commonwealth Games, in Edinburgh in 1986, Test cricket and other major international sporting events were "now very seriously threatened by this financial inducement that is going on."

MacFarlane had been urged by Labor MP Dennis Canavan to investigate South African-linked "slush funds" which, he said, were created to "smash the Glencagles agreement", in addition to organization like the Freedom of Sport campaign.



STRIKING SHOW: The picturesque pine trees and the boards of enthusiastic skiers, seen gliding down the hillside, blend with the snow to give a striking show in the annual Marathons Skiing Tournament in Finland. The 13,000 participants, an all-time record, indicated a growing popularity of the decade-old event which saw only 1,000 skiers on the starting ranks ten years back. Norwegian Mahmar Rishmyr covered the 75 km course in three hours and 43 minutes to win the event.

Poles prove too swift for Yugoslavs

TOKYO, March 24 (AFP) — Strongly favored Poland overpowered Yugoslavia 12-2 (4-1, 3-0, 5-1) for its second straight win in as many matches in the Group 'B' Ice Hockey World Championships here Thursday.

The Poles were just too strong for the Yugoslavs, who suffered their third defeat in three games so far. Andrzej Hachua scored a hat-trick, while Andrzej Zabawa, Jerzy Christ and Jan Piecko slapped in two goals each. For the Yugoslavs Marijan Gorenc and Jozse Kavac were the scorers.

Meanwhile, Austria edged Norway 3-2 (1-1, 2-0, 0-1) for their first win in the second match of the day.

Gregory Holst opened the score at 4:34

while the Austrians were attacking powerfully. After catching a loose puck, Holst dribbled past the Norwegian defense and slapped in. Trond Abrahamson made it 1-1 seconds before the first period ended. He made a long slap shot from the blue line. The puck hit goalkeeper Robert Mar's gloves and rebounded into the net.

The second period saw the Austrians outplay the Norwegians in team coordination and they scored two goals without reply. The Norwegians made it 3-2 one minute after the start of the final period with Erik Kristiansen scoring on a pass from Oerjan Loevdal following a goalmouth melee.

In the final minute the Norwegians went hard for an equalizer with even goalkeeper Jim Martinsen participating in the attack.

Lendl makes short work of Mayotte

MILAN, Italy, March 24 (AP) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia downed Tim Mayotte of the U.S. 6-2, 7-6 in a second round match of the \$365,000 Cuore Tennis Cup here Wednesday night and moved into a quarterfinal clash against another American, Sandy Mayer.

Mayotte, a 22-year-old unseeded player, lost his serve twice in the first three games, only scoring three points and looked at the mercy of the opponent. After losing his serve again in the fifth game of the second set, the American improved his play, returned the break in the 8th game and fought to a 6-6 tie. In the tiebreaker he went ahead 7-6 before surrendering 8-10 after one hour and 29 minutes of play.

Sandy Mayer, the elder of the Mayer tennis brothers, won an earlier match against fellow-American Hank Pfister 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 to gain a quarterfinal berth against Lendl.

American Chip Hooper and another Czechoslovak, Tomas Smid, also moved into the quarterfinals of the 32-player, one-week tournament at Milan's Indoor Sports Palace. Hooper, an unseeded, 24-year-old player of Sunnyvale, Calif., downed New Zealander Russel Simpson 7-5, 6-2 in one hour and 29 minutes. Hooper capitalized on a powerful and precise serve and on fine backhand passing shots.

Simpson looked tired out after the overnight first round struggle in which he upset fourth-seeded Vitas Gerulaitis. Smid, a teammate of Lendl on the Czech Davis Cup lineup, made short work of Shlomo Glickstein 6-2, 6-1.

Meanwhile, top seed Jimmy Arias, an 18-year-old American, was saved by darkness Wednesday in the \$75,000 Donny Open Tennis Tournament when his second-round match against Frenchman Christophe Cassa was postponed with Arias trailing 7-5, 5-7 and 4-2 in the final set.

The day went better for another American teenager. Unseeded Jimmy Brown, a 17-year-old from the U.S., knocked out No. 4 seed Pablo Arraya of Peru 7-6, 6-2, to qualify for the quarterfinals. Arraya was the fifth seeded player to fall in the tournament.

In the two other second-round encounters completed Wednesday, Mario Martinez of Bolivia finally pulled through an up-and-down contest against Frenchman Gilles Moretton with a 4-6, 7-6, 6-1 victory while Spain's Fernando Luna ousted Sweden's Magnus Tidemann, 7-6, 4-6, 6-1. Luna now meets Brown in the quarterfinals and Martinez will play the winner of Arias-Cassa, a match which resumes Thursday.

Arias, ranked 17th in the world, was surprised by the skill of Cassa, a 25-year-old ranked 484 on the ATP computer.

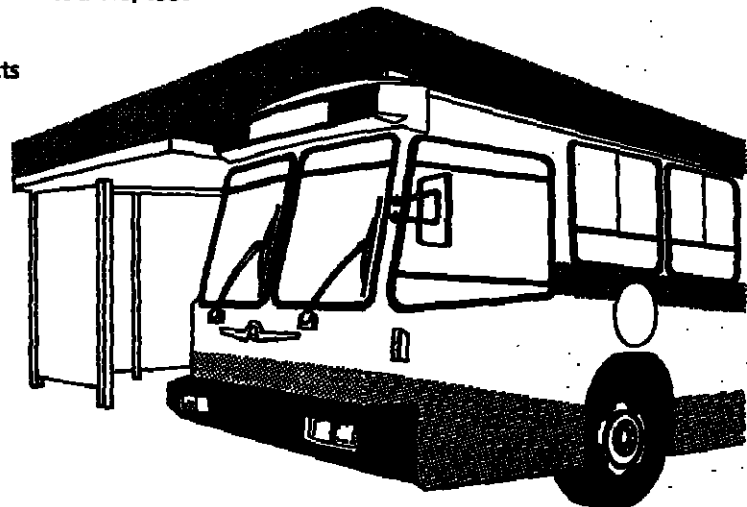
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Fancies Austin
ousts Ruzici in
nail-biting duel

NEW YORK, March 24 (AP) — Fourth-seeded Tracy Austin, battling from behind the entire night, ousted Virginia Ruzici of Romania 5-7, 6-1, 7-6 and No. 2 Chris Evert Lloyd crushed Zina Garrison 6-3, 6-0 Wednesday in the opening round of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims Championships of New York Women's Tennis Tournament.

Bettina Bunge of West Germany defeated Bonnie Gadusek 6-3, 6-2 in a match that finished late before just a handful of the crowd of 9,960. The victory sends Bunge into a second-round meeting against Lloyd on Thursday. Lloyd disposed of Garrison, ranked 11th in the world, in 66 minutes, dominating play both from the baseline and at the net.

In posting her third career victory over the Houston native in as many meetings, Lloyd broke out to a 3-0 lead in the first set, then dismantled the speedy Garrison in the second set to cruise to victory.

Austin's hard-earned victory sends against Sylvia Hanika of West Germany in a second-round match on Thursday. Hanika advanced with an easy 6-0, 6-2 win over Kathy Rinaldi.

JBC, KKH record cakewalk wins

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH, March 24 — The top two teams of the Slazenger-sponsored Jeddah Badminton League, Jeddah Badminton Club (JBC) 1 and King Khaled Hospital (KKH) 1, continued their fierce battle for the premier berth.

Both the teams registered fluent 9-0 victories and were neck and neck in the race for the top honors. While JBC 1 handed a thrashing to Tretum, KKH 1 trounced ACE to stay seven points clear of JBC 1.

But KKH 1 has played one game more than JBC 1, who are really breathing down their necks. Also JBC 1 are the only team with a clean record and in all probability can overtake the leaders with a resounding 9-0 verdict over Lockheed. Abbar could also climb higher if they could snatch maximum

points from their extra match in hand. The keenest encounter of the week saw Jeddah Badminton Club (JBC) 2 just managing to put it across second-from-bottom IAL. In a match where fortunes fluctuated JBC 2 snatched a 5-4 victory.

Positions

	P	W	L	Pts.
KKH 1	11	10	1	89
JBC 1	10	10	0	82
Abbar	10	9	1	74
Garruda	10	8	2	73
Tretum	10	6	4	52
KALA	10	5	5	50
Whitaker 1	11	5	6	47
Zam	10	5	5	46
JBC 2	11	4	7	35
KKH 2	10	3	7	25
ACE	10	3	7	22
Lockheed	9	2	7	19
IAL	9	1	8	18
Whitaker 2	10	1	9	13

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Dog Detective Ranjha

11 The case of the superstitious gardener

By Partap Sharma

This was not a very serious case. In fact, it turned out to be something of a joke and the only reason I recall it here is because it shows how gullible human beings can be.

The gardener concerned was known as Bhau Mali. He looked so typically the yokel — with his teeth spraying outward over his lower lip, his stammer, his over emphatic gestures and his little white cap set askant on the back of his head — that people usually refused to think that he was as foolish as he looked.

Bhau Mali's garden flourished. He rarely watered the plants and when he did, it was always under the noonday sun. But flowers sprouted and birds chirruped about and bees made honeycombs in the trees. Bhau Mali lived like a happy jungle savage in that garden. He never even cut the grass but it never grew too long because wandering cattle and donkeys sauntered in and chewed it trim. The house and garden were enclosed by gates, of course. But Bhau Mali never shut the gates. Instead, he charged a fee of anyone whose cattle had fed in his grounds.

People marveled at his ability to prosper and to smile through all adversity — which he actually seemed to invite — while other gardeners were clutching their turbans and running about chucking stones at intruding monkeys and such. Bhau Mali gave bananas and puts to the visiting hordes of monkeys, and sometimes he pretended he could discuss things with them. When you consider it carefully, perhaps it was not such a silly thing for him to do because otherwise he would just stand there in the garden and talk to himself.

Bhau Mali had a family. He had a wife and five children. Some of the children looked like him and some of them didn't. It is possible that one or two of them had just wandered in through the open gate and joined the brood. Anything was possible. For instance, various dogs slipped into the garden and within minutes became his. There was one lame creature who barked and snarled at nothing, somewhat like his master, and when he was carted away one day by a man who claimed him, the mangy dog limped back a year later from a village one hundred miles away.

If a bitch littered in some cosy corner of the sprawling garden, Bhau Mali sold the sweet little pups and with the money held a little feast and invited a local pundit to hold a prayer meeting in his hut. The mother of the pups would go sniffing after the pups and, within the week, they would come, toddling one by one behind her back into the garden. Sometimes he sold the same pups three times over.

There were days, too, when he would tuck a flower behind his ear and declare it a holiday and go to sleep under a tree. If some neighbor's hens disturbed him with their furious clucking, he would bestir himself to go and pick up the eggs they had laid. He always drank milk in the evenings, drawn straight from the udders of visiting cows. And he never bothered to lop the dead wood from trees in the garden. Instead, he sold parts of trees by the branch to local woodcutters.

The owner of the house suspected most of this but being a kind old lady who lived most of the time in Poona, she let Bhau Mali drift on in his ways as long as the garden was kept well. And it was. On the rare occasions when she had reason to pull him up, he would look up at the sky and mutter for not letting the rains fall. His manner seemed to imply that it was beyond his control.

Most people would have thought that this

was a clever ruse on the part of the gardener but the fact is he was quite sincere.

One day Bhau Mali came to Woof and asked for a contribution of ten rupees; he said he was raising money in order to engage the services of a pundit (a learned Brahmin) who would help him to recover some pots which had been stolen from his hut. Now, Woof knew that Bhau Mali was a devout Hindu and given to practicing the occasional ritual. But he was shocked that he was so superstitious as to think that the mumbo-jumbo of a charlatan could help him get back his stolen pots and pans.

Woof said, "I don't mind contributing ten rupees toward the recovery of your stolen utensils but, in my opinion, you would be much better served if you depended on this dog to help you. I suggest you save your money — and, incidentally, mine — and forget about going to a pundit. Tell me how the pots came to be stolen and I'm sure Ranjha will help you."

Bhau Mali took Woof's chiding in good spirit; he laughed and grinned and nodded and seemed to agree but, in the end, he insisted on going to the charlatan.

"Very well," said Woof. "Let us see who catches the thief, Ranjha or the pundit."

When Bhau returned from his visit to the pundit Woof asked what had transpired. Bhau said that the pundit was working on the case with his mystic vision but in the meantime he had admitted that it was all a bit foggy. Sooner or later, the mist over the matter was bound to clear.

"Good heavens!" Woof exclaimed.

"That's as vague as any man can be."

Bhau nodded and grinned and sucked in his breath and with an emphatic gesture said, "Yes, very, very vague. B-b-b-but he's w-w-w-working on the c-c-case. He's told me not to w-w-worry."

"All right," Woof said. "Now let me put Ranjha into his tracking harness and let's go over to your hut."

The pots had been stolen three days before, on Republic Day, when the whole family had gone to the bazaar to join in the anniversary festivities and to watch the parade. Bhau's hut, like the gate to the garden, was never locked. The door had been left ajar. The thief had strolled in, seen that he was unobserved, and selected the best copper pots from the shelf and walked away. Bhau Mali was particularly upset that the pots had been his very special ones, the ones made of copper. The brass and stainless steel utensils had not been touched. The thief, it seemed, had the same values as Bhau Mali—he, too, had a preference for copper vessels. This in itself was a surprise to Woof for copper pots are not half as durable as those made of the popular alloys, but Bhau Mali explained that copper was considered a metal of magical properties and had a curative value and, therefore, it was quite understandable that the thief had made such a careful selection. What's more, last year, too, a similar theft had taken place but then Bhau had not bothered much about it since only one copper mug had been stolen. He had, in fact, eventually come to believe that one of his five children had misplaced it somewhere in the vast reaches of the garden. Now, Bhau knew that he was the target of a thief, for this time six utensils had been taken.

Three days had now passed since the theft. Woof was a little doubtful that I would be able to untangle the scent of the thief from all those of the family and the various genuine visitors who had been there in the past few days. Bhau was of the opinion that one of his own relatives, in particu-

lar perhaps a young niece, had carried the pots away in a shopping bag. On that Republic Day, many of his relatives had come from the surrounding villages.

Woof groaned at the thought of tracking through the crowded bazaar and perhaps following a trail to some remote village.

But he needn't have worried. The trail led right across the road to the hotel opposite.

Yes, I caught the unfamiliar scent straightaway. Of course, the hut itself was full of numerous smells, some of them strange and obviously belonging to the relatives who had been there; but none of them had had reason to stand directly under the shelf from which the pots had been taken. There, under the shelf, I detected only one strange scent—that of the man who had reached up for the pots. It was Woof who deduced this and it was he who pointed me to the exact spot and set me on the track. After all my training and having solved so many cases, Woof and I had become quite a good working team. I understood what he wanted of me. And he was thrilled by my immediate response.

I set off slowly toward the main gate, with my nose to the ground. But at one point, the scent suddenly veered to the left. Following it, I came to the edge of the compound and a large rainwater pit that lay just beyond the straggling fence. The thief had been sensible; he had not carried the pots out of the compound for fear of being noticed—he had thrown his booty over the fence and collected it later. However, I didn't go sniffing off after the smell of the pots. The scent I had been given was that of the thief and I kept to it.

It turned back to toward the drive and went out of the main gate and, as I said,



across the road, through a side entrance into the vast grounds of a hotel. The man had gone to a broom and continued sweeping the dried leaves into little heaps all over the compound. I naturally moved from heap to heap. In a short while, Woof understood that the man I was tracking was a sweeper, an employee of the hotel.

When Woof mentioned this to Bhau, he said, "But there are many sweepers employed by the hotel."

So I pressed on, till I reached the hut of this particular sweeper at the back of the main building. A woman and some children standing there moved aside at my approach. I led Woof and Bhau into the hut. There, lined neatly in row upon row on shelves, were many gleaming pots and pans. There were rows of crockery and glassware too. The man was obviously a specialist — specializing in the theft of kitchenware. But there was no sign of Bhau's goods. Again, the thief had been sensible. He had not put

Illustrations by Abdurahim Alireza

them out on display so soon after acquiring them. They were probably hidden somewhere safe. Or perhaps they had been sold.

Woof asked the woman where her husband was. She said he had gone to the bazaar.

Woof now took me off the scent and turned to Bhau. He said, "So there you are. It's clear that the man who lives in this hut stole your pots. He might have sold them by now, of course, but I doubt it. He seems to like possessing copper pots. He's probably hidden them somewhere and, if we went on tracking, I'm sure we'd find them but I don't think it's necessary to take all that trouble. I suggest you see the sweeper later this evening and just tell him casually that we know who the thief is. Tell him that you are only interested in getting your pots back and, if they are returned to you, nothing more will be said of the matter; otherwise, of course, you will have no alternative but to expose the thief. I'm sure you'll get your pots back."

Bhau sucked in his breath, nodded eagerly and said, "Yes, yes." Then his face fell in dismay and he added, "B-b-but that sweeper is such a nice man. I know him w-w-well."

"I understand that. I realized you'd know him. After all, he's a neighborhood employee. That's why I suggest you merely talk to him without causing too much fuss. Otherwise, the man will, to say the least, lose his job, for I'm certain the hotel won't continue to employ him once we've proved his guilt."

Two days later, Woof met Bhau. Bhau waved a sort of salute, grinned and said, "I went to the p-p-p-pundit."

"Again?"

Bhau nodded. "He said I was going to get my pots b-b-back. He said the m-m-man who stole them lives in the same neighborhood."

"Did you tell him that we had tracked the man?"

"Of c-c-course."

Woof shook his head and sighed. "Bhau, you're impossible! If you've told the pundit all that we did, he's naturally going to say that you'll get the pots back!"

"It's not like that," Bhau said, then added sagely, "He knows."

"And have you told the sweeper that you know who the thief is?"

Bhau shifted uneasily on his feet and looked down. At last, he shook his head. "He's n-n-n-nice man. How c-c-can I say such things to him?"

"Then," said Woof bluntly, "I'm afraid you'll never get your pots back. You can forget about them."

Bhau said simply and with finality, "The pundit said I would get them back."

The days passed. Nothing happened.

There was no sign of the missing pots. Bhau's wife could bear it no longer. She marched up to the sweeper and told him that she knew who the thief was; he admitted casually that his wife had told him about the dog that came tracking to his door.

The next morning the pots were found thrown about outside Bhau's hut. Someone had flung them in over the fence the previous night.

Bhau's wife came to Woof and informed him. When we got there Bhau was standing among his children, gaping with joy at the pots.

"Come on, Bhau, there's a little bit of proving still left to be done."

Bhau looked at Woof and said, "God has given me back the pots."

"Right," said Woof, "so let's go and meet the pundit."

And saying that, he asked me to take the scent from the pots. The sweeper's smell sizzled up my nose as strong as the odor of cowdung and as heady as Egyptian perfume. I searched the ground in widening circles till I caught the beginning of the trail. I crawled under the fence. Woof asked me to wait and I did till he and Bhau came round through the gate. Then I took them, as straight as the flight of an arrow, to the sweeper's hut. He was standing by the door but seeing us coming, he stepped inside quickly and shut the door. Woof called out to me to stop.

Then he turned to Bhau. "Is that proof enough for you? He's the man who threw those pots in during the night."

Bhau moved his head in a semicircular, sideways movement. It was a gesture indicating agreement.

But in the afternoon Bhau came to Woof and said, "Everyone has given me some money. I'm making a c-c-c-collection."

"For what?"

"B-b-because I got my pots b-b-back."

"Oh," said Woof with a smile, "you needn't buy anything for Ranjha. He likes helping friends."

"It's not for the d-d-dog," Bhau said. "It's to thank God. It's for the pundit. He was right after all. I did get my pots b-b-back."

And so, to this day, in the vast garden of the bungalow opposite that hotel, you may see a gardener named Bhau Mali happily going about his chores, with a flower tucked behind his ear. Sometimes he will stop to pick up a hen's egg or pluck a berry that's ripe enough to eat. Sometimes he will talk to passing monkeys and sometimes he will stand, with his cap askant on his head, talking to himself. If you listen closely, you might hear him muttering, "Yes, f-f-faith is the most important thing on earth."

And who is there to prove him wrong?

(Concluded)

With new training opportunities

Arabian cuisine

South Pacific women learn new basic skills

By Asif Khan

SUVA, Fiji (Depthnews) — Indian *choolahs*, the simple stoves which use both charcoal and firewood and which can be built at virtually no cost from bricks and sand, could soon become a common feature of homes in Commonwealth countries of the South Pacific.

An enlarged version of the *choolah* has been installed at the Community Education Training Center in Fiji where students, all women, have been learning how to make and use it.

And it is proving quite popular with them, says the Center's principal, Mee Kwain Sue. "We have modified it slightly to suit local needs," she said. "It's slightly bigger than a typical Indian *choolah*. In the Pacific, families are large and they are hearty eaters. It's ideal for them."

It is just one example of simple technology to which the students are introduced during the 10-month community education training course run by the center.

The course is designed to equip them with skills that will contribute to their countries' development and help them play a greater role in community life.

The curriculum includes community health and sanitation, maternal and child care, clothing and textiles, small businesses and income-raising activities, family resource management, communication skills and education techniques and community development.

The students also learn sewing; basic carpentry and joinery — making such things as tables and chairs, beds and cupboards; food storage; simple maintenance of machinery; hygiene; family planning and group leadership.

Nutrition is another important part of their training. They learn to grow cheap but nutritious vegetables and fruit in the center's own garden.

The center's kitchen and staff provide them with a ready market for their produce. Miss Sue, a customer, said: "It's quite good. It's fresh and there is a vast difference in

taste." Summing up the students' activities, she said: "Promoting self-reliance is our primary objective. We encourage them to use their own resources."

One of the students, Maria Tom, whose work in the Solomon Islands includes caring for poor and needy girls, said: "It is a very useful course. I have found out a lot about nutrition."

"Previously, we would just feed the girls with whatever we grew. But now I have a better idea of what a balanced and planned diet should be."

Maria was among a group of nine women from eight Commonwealth countries in the

South Pacific who recently completed the course. They were sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), the developmental arm of the secretariat, under its fellowships and training program.

The others were Tae Nootutai, from Cook Islands; Ruta Teve, from Tokelau; Juliet Antas, Vanuatu; Aterina Tooma, Kiribati; Selina Gaseloku, Solomon Islands; Akanesi Paonga, Tonga; Futaina Moe, Western Samoa, and Siala Tausi, Tuvalu.

More than 10,000 men and women from 50-odd Commonwealth countries and associated states have received financial support from the program since it was started in

1972.

"Women in the Pacific are often forgotten when training opportunities are offered," said Miss Sue, a Fiji national of Chinese origin and a fluent speaker of Hindi, a major Indian language also spoken in the island. "So the CFTC awards for these women were particularly welcome."

Miss Sue trained as a teacher in Melbourne, Australia. Between 1980-81, she was assisted by the CFTC to follow a one-year diploma course in rural social development at the University of Reading in Britain. She was the first local woman in Fiji to be appointed to such a senior post.

The Community Education Training Center was founded in 1963 by the South Pacific Commission (SPC). It focuses primarily on women and their role in improving community, family and village life. It has trained about 600 women since its inception. The SPC, established in 1947, is a regional organization which aims to promote the economic and social development in the South Pacific whose four-and-a-half-million people live scattered over an area of 30 million square kilometers.

The commission's role is an advisory and consultative one, and its programs cover a wide range of social and economic development activities. These are closely coordinated with those of the countries and territories of the Pacific for which it works.

In 1978, the center established a mobile training unit for community development to extend the training offered in Suva.

The unit travels throughout the region, holding courses of four to 10 weeks' duration at the request of governments.

The center's objective is to teach women how to plan, practice and promote better family and village living. Course content is kept under constant review to meet changing needs. Much emphasis is placed on practical work.

Students come from throughout the Pacific to attend the courses in Suva; occasionally also from Australia and Asia. Up to 40 students aged between 18 and 60 attend each course.



ADVANCED KITCHEN: A product of cooperation between Karlsruhe University and German industry, this advanced kitchen is the latest help for the handicapped. The many advantages include a central switchboard for stove hot plates and an oven that can be automatically raised or lowered, a sink so designed that dishes can be slid up or down from the draining area and a chair on wheels.



REDEYE

by Gordon Bess



AGATHA CRUMM

by Bill Hoest



Your Individual Horoscope

Frances Drake

FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1983

ARIES

(Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)

Exercise initiative in romance. Your leadership qualities are to the fore. Hobbies, amusements and travel are favored now.

TAURUS

(Apr. 20 to May 20)

You'll tackle those unfinished tasks around the house. Take home work from the office to stay ahead of the competition.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

Morning hours find you in a mental slump, but later you'll dazzle others with your insight. Make important calls.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

Action is needed now about a career endeavor. Your hunches are on the money. Creative types meet with chances to improve income.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

You may have been beating around the bush. Now's the time to speak forthrightly. Rest assured, others will listen.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Stop hemming and hawing. Take one task at a time and you'll make progress. Get the privacy you need.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Don't worry about the impression a loved one will make on some friends. Together, you'll all have a wonderful time.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

No more excuses. A higher-up wants to see results. Once you begin, it will be smooth sailing. Aim for the top.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You'll overcome a loved one's reservations about a planned outing. News from afar is welcome. Put self-improvement ideas into motion.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

A plan you have doubts about will work. It's up to you to keep trying. Domestic and financial matters are happily highlighted.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

You'll gain the respect of a loved one if you exhibit greater confidence. Express those ideas that you've been keeping to yourself.

PISCES

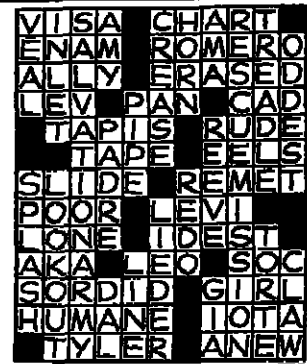
(Feb. 19 to Mar. 20)

A small financial dilemma will be resolved in your favor. This is an excellent time for career strivings. Success is forthcoming.

Crossword

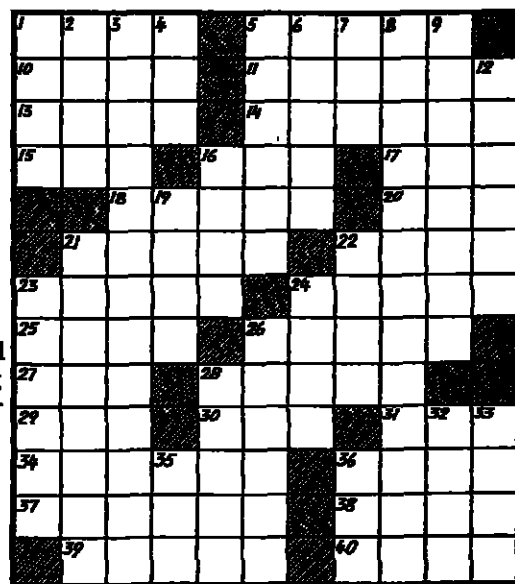
by THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | 2 Years |
| 1 Maine city | 3 Genuine article (sl.) |
| 5 Illimitable distance | 4 Coal scuttle |
| 10 Reverberate | 5 Dress style |
| 11 American publisher | 6 Australian city |
| 12 Slough off | 7 Swiss river |
| 14 Printing gaffes | 8 General store fixture |
| 15 Thrive (Lat.) | 9 Lovers of beauty |
| 16 Cereal plant | 12 Corrupts |
| 17 Greek letter | 18 Richard Harris film |
| 18 Soil | 19 Salt tree |
| 20 Purview | 21 Acknowledged |
| 21 Understand | 22 Type |
| 22 Stone paving block | 23 Yoked |
| 23 La - , Calif. | 24 Lady's slipper |
| 24 Conventions | 25 Formerly |
| 25 Restrains | 27 I (Ger.) |
| 27 I (Ger.) | 28 Medit. island |
| 28 Medit. island | 29 Born (Fr.) |
| 29 Born (Fr.) | 30 United |
| 30 United | 31 Tease |
| 31 Tease | 34 Paradiisical |
| 34 Paradiisical | 36 Seed coating |
| 36 Seed coating | 37 "A Streetcar Named -" |
| 37 "A Streetcar Named -" | 38 Redecorate |
| 38 Redecorate | 39 Caution |
| 39 Caution | 40 Nail |
| 40 Nail | DOWN |
| DOWN | 1 Defeat |



Yesterday's Answer

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 22 Type | 32 Opera girl |
| 23 Yoked | 33 Luminesce |
| 24 Lady's slipper | 35 Basket-ball |
| 25 Formerly | 36 Zodiac |
| 27 I (Ger.) | 37 "A Streetcar Named -" |
| 28 Medit. island | 38 Redecorate |
| 29 Born (Fr.) | 39 Caution |
| 30 United | 40 Nail |



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE - Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter simply stands for another. In this sample A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

QV QC ZGVVGL VX CRJ, 'VFQC
XYG VFQYM Q PX, 'VFRY VX
CRJ, 'VFGCG UXLVJ VFQYMC Q

PRZZSG QY, ' - K. MSRPFGY
Yesterday's Cryptquote: MODERATION IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS IN THE DICTIONARY. - ALFRED ARMAND MONTAPERT

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Contract Bridge B. Jay and Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:

North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♥ Pass ?

What would you bid now with each of the following five hands?

1. ♠KQ5 ♥742 ♦864 ♠A93
2. ♠AQ972 ♥J6 ♦873 ♠KJ4
3. ♠KJ984 ♥K95 ♦A962 ♦7
4. ♠AQ853 ♥J8 ♦KQ105 ♠J6
5. ♠KQ965 ♥J ♦63 ♠AQ842

1. Two hearts. All you can do at the moment is show a preference for partner's first suit. North's strength is unknown - he may have a minimum opening bid or extra values not yet disclosed.

Two hearts shows willingness to stop at a part score, and thus indicates that the first response was based on fairly minimum values. But if partner were now to bid three hearts you should carry on to four; you would be in the happy position of having greater values than your first two bids had shown.

2. Three clubs. This invites partner to go on to game with more than a minimum opening, but he is of course not forced to bid again. In this sequence, three clubs indicates 10 to 12 points.

3. Three hearts. It would be wrong to bid only two hearts, which would represent a much weaker hand. Counting the value of the heart fit, the distribution and the 11 high-card points, you have the equivalent of an opening bid facing an opening bid - which means game. Accordingly, you jump-raise rather than give partner a simple preference in hearts. Alternatively, you could respond two diamonds (forcing).

4. Three notrump. It is clear that with 13 high-card points opposite an opening bid you must undertake game, and it is likewise clear that the best chance for game lies in notrump. There is not much point to bidding two diamonds, even though this would be a forcing bid. It would suggest a distributional hand rather than the notrump type of hand you have.

5. Four clubs. Game is highly likely, and even a slam is not out of the question. The distributional factors easily justify the jump raise (forcing), although it is true there are only 12 high-card points. While three notrump could prove to be a better contract, there is no way of reaching a notrump game without sacrificing the advantages of the jump raise.

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IF THEY ASK, BLAME BIG TIME HIJACKERS FOR IT PLEADING IF THEY COULD TAKE BIG PLANES, THEY COULD EASILY TAKE TOY PLANES!



ABT BINEX

AL-KHOBAR (HO)
TEL: (03)894 4880
TELEX: 670354 SABUT SJ

DAMMAM (KSA)
TEL: (03) 857 2080,
JUBAIL
TEL: (03)361 2121

RIYADH
TEL: (01)478 6188/323
TELEX: 203106 BINEX RO SJ

JEDDAH
TEL: (02)651 9524
TEL: (02)651 9794
TELEX: 402393 BINEX SJ

YANBU
TEL: (04)322 8080
TELEX: 461180 YANBNX SJ

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International

PAGE 12

ABU DUBAI

RENT A CAR

1983

RIYADH
476-2575 / 477-3070 476-2316 / 476-9092

JEDDAH
671-6787 / 671-7477 671-8648

DAHRAN 891-4035 / 891-8403

Honduras fears war as U.N. debate begins

Fighting continues in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, March 24 (AP) — Troops of the leftist government and rightist Nicaraguan exiles from Honduras engaged in heavy fighting north of Managua, and Honduras said it verged on war with its Central American neighbor.

The ruling Sandinista junta dispatched 300 militiamen Wednesday to the northern city of Matagalpa to reinforce soldiers locked in fierce clashes in the El Dorado, Chachagua and Palo Prieto Hills in Matagalpa province, military sources said. Heavy combat also persisted near the towns of Quilali and Wiwili in neighboring Nueva Segovia province, they said.

Thibault of France dies

Misfortunes dogged 'enfant terrible'

PARIS, March 24 (Agencies) — Prince Thibault d'Orleans, 35, the youngest son of the pretender to the French throne, the Count of Paris, died of a heart attack Tuesday night on a hunting trip in the Central African Republic (CAR), according to family sources. Initial reports reaching Paris Wednesday had said that he died in a hunting accident.

Prince Thibault was in his hunting camp in Bamingui, in the northwest of the country, when he died. He leaves his wife, Scottish-born Marion Gordon-Orr, and a five-year-old son, Robert. She left Paris Wednesday night for the CAR.

On Tuesday, Thibault drove with a guide the 450 kilometers from Bangui, the capital, to the Bamingui camp, and fainted several times during the trip. He died a few hours later from a heart attack. His body was flown to Bangui. The prince loved travel and drove through North and South America.

Thibault was known as the "enfant terrible" of his family because of a 1981 conviction for attempted burglary.

A court in the southeastern French city of Tarbes sentenced the prince to a suspended one-year prison sentence after he had spent 14 months in jail while awaiting trial. His imprisonment marked the first time a member of the inner French royal family had been jailed since the ill-fated Louis XVI. The monarchy in France ended 135 years ago.

Thibault was convicted of participating in a failed burglary attempt March 30, 1980, at the Tarbes home of a wealthy physician, Suzanne Courty, who had an extensive art collection.

Two men were arrested while climbing over a wall into the doctor's courtyard that night and later sentenced to three-year prison terms each. One of the men was a known criminal. The other man operated an art gallery in Paris with Prince Thibault. The gallery was barely making ends meet.

During the prince's trial, Dr. Courty told the court the prince knew of her art collection.

Marcos warns bases opponents

MANILA, March 24 (AFP) — President Ferdinand Marcos on Thursday warned his opponents not to "play politics with the internal and external security of the nation" over the controversial issue of nuclear weapons allegedly installed in United States military bases in the Philippines.

In an official statement, Marcos said that the firm principle that no nuclear weapons would be installed by the United States in its Philippine bases without consulting the host government had been affirmed.

Marcos was reacting to opposition charges that nuclear warheads had been installed at the Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, two

London boy freed in mail bomb case

LONDON, March 24 (AP) — A 14-year-old London boy accused of mailing a letter bomb to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was released in parents' custody by a court Thursday. The youth, who was arrested at his north London home Wednesday, was ordered to appear in court for another hearing May 5.

He was not required to enter a plea during the brief hearing before juvenile court magistrates in the west London district of Hammersmith. The boy was not identified

From page one

missiles.

"The generic technologies are by no means mature, but they have been there for years," said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified. "What is being launched today is a search for a plan." The official said the United States now is spending about \$1 billion a year into various types of anti-missile devices.

He said the new effort would be "completely independent" of the work by the presidential commission seeking a basing system for the MX missile.

The administration official insisted the program would not violate the ABM treaty, noting that it permits research and development. Officials were vague on what type of technology eventually would be employed, and gave no estimate of how much such a system would cost.

During his speech, Reagan displayed four black-and-white photographs taken by U.S. spy planes of Soviet-supplied weaponry and installations in Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua.

According to Pentagon officials, the pic-

"We are on the brink of an international war, a war between Nicaragua and Honduras," Honduran Ambassador Enrique Ortiz told the U.N. Security Council Wednesday night in New York as debate began on Nicaraguan charges that the United States was sponsoring the exiles' invasion.

Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega warned Monday that Honduran support of the insurgents could spark war between the two countries. But the Honduran government Wednesday repeated denials that it was allowing Nicaraguan rebels to operate from bases within its territory.

"Honduras is totally removed from and has

and had been in her home 18 months before the attempted robbery in an effort to convince her to purchase pre-Columbian art from his gallery.

The prosecution contended the prince was the "third man" in the case and its mastermind. They also alleged the prince was behind the wheel of an automobile waiting outside Dr. Courty's home on the night of the aborted burglary. The car roared off before police, tipped off by an alarm system, reached the doctor's home. The prince was arrested a month later.

The conviction came during a string of misfortunes for the handsome Prince Thibault, one of 11 children of the Comte de Paris who is the pretender to the French throne and whose royal lines date back 1,000 years through King Louis Philippe and King Louis XIV.

Thibault was once considered a darling of "tout Paris," the name for the city's wealthy jet set crowd, and was known for his dashing manners and exotic trips abroad.

But then came marriage to a commoner, the displeasure of his father, the death of his infant son, his unsuccessful art gallery and the failed break-in that led to his conviction.

During the prince's trial, his friends testified Thibault's 1973 marriage to the beautiful dark-haired Marion Gordon had displeased the Comte de Paris, who had wanted his son to marry royalty.

The friends said the issue of his marriage came up again only three months before the attempted burglary when Thibault wanted to bury his infant son in the family crypt.

Paul de la Panouse, a close friend of the prince, testified he was with Thibault when he telephoned his father to tell him the news of the infant's death and to make funeral arrangements.

"The comte told him, 'your children are not royalty. There's no room in the crypt for him,'" Panouse told the court. "Thibault then said, 'but, papa, there's room. You can put him in my tomb. We can huddle together when I die.'"

major military installations within 90 kilometers of here.

Top opposition leader and ABC chairman Lorenzo Tanada, a respected former senator, told Agence France-Presse that nuclear weapons have been installed in Clark and Subic and "there is nothing the Philippine government can do about it."

ABC is planning protests timed with the start next month of the review of the Philippines-U.S. bases treaty, during which increased military and economic aid to the Marcos government — known here as "rent" for the bases — from 1984-88 is to be determined.

because of his age.

His lawyer, David James, told reporters: "This young boy will be contesting the case and I request that the press and public recognize the principle of his innocence until he is proved guilty."

He was charged with constructing an explosive device likely to endanger life and sending it through the mail to Mrs. Thatcher's official 10 Downing St. residence March 17. The device was intercepted at a central postal sorting office and safely defused.

tures marked the first time in 20 years that reconnaissance pictures of Cuba had been publicly released.

One picture purported to show a 28-square mile Soviet communications intelligence facility near Lourdes, Cuba. Reagan said the complex, less than 100 miles (160-kms) from the U.S. coastline and manned by 1,500 Soviet technicians, "is the largest of its kind in the world."

Another picture showed Soviet-built MiG-23 aircraft at a field in western Cuba. A picture of an airfield in Nicaragua purported to show Soviet anti-aircraft guns and helicopters.

A fourth picture showed a 10,000-foot (3,050 meter) aircraft runway on Grenada, along with fuel storage facilities and housing for Cuban workers. Reagan said the pictures demonstrate the Soviets "are spreading their military influence in ways that can directly challenge our vital interests and those of our allies."

Reagan used a series of charts to document the existence of a huge Soviet military build-

no responsibility for what may be happening in Nicaragua," said a government communiqué released in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital. "In faithful fulfillment of the principle of non-intervention, there are no camps of anti-Sandinistas in our territory nor is any type of support provided to Nicaraguan insurgents."

American U.N. Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick told the Security Council that Nicaragua's fears of a U.S. invasion were a "myth," and that Nicaragua was "involved in a major effort to destabilize other governments," particularly those of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.



REVIEWING GUARD: King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden accompanied by Madrid's Mayor Tienzo Calvan reviewed the honor guard on arrival Wednesday at Madrid city hall. King Gustaf and Queen Silvia are on their second day of a four-day official visit to Spain.

Umberto funeral draws thousands

HAUTE-LOMBE, France, March 24 (AP) — Shouting "long live the king," a crowd of several thousand people maintained a vigil outside Haute-Combe abbey Thursday in the hours before the funeral of King Umberto II, Italy's last monarch.

Umberto, who was king for less than a month, is to be buried in the abbey among his ancestors from the House of Savoy.

Umberto died of cancer in Geneva, Switzerland, last Friday at the age of 78. His body was transported to the French abbey from Switzerland where he had lived in exile for 36 years.

"For the Italians who are royalists, Italy is forever where the king is buried," said a general who fought with Umberto. "Here the king is buried in his own earth, his own soil."

Italian monarchists consider the abbey to be an Italian territory. Historically, the Savoy region of Umberto's ancestors was given back to France by the Italian king in 1860 when Italy was reunified.

In Italy, many Italians praised the exiled king as an honorable man punished for the errors of his family, and criticized the government for not allowing him home to die. A spokesman for the royal family in Rome said the last word Umberto uttered was "Italia."

Snow blankets American south

NEW YORK, March 24 (AP) — A rare spring snow storm blanketed parts of the American south with up to four inches of snow Thursday, shutting down schools and roads and closing all but one runway at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport.

Three inches of snow fell on northern Georgia. The National Weather Service called it "the heaviest snowfall for so late in the season" for the Atlanta area and said accumulations of up to six inches were likely before the storm ended.

Dogwood Trees, already budding with flowers because of unusually warm weather earlier this month, were shrouded with snow.

A Georgia Power Co. spokesman said snow-laden tree branches fell on power lines, causing scattered outages for about 2,500 customers in the Atlanta area.

Meanwhile, another in a long line of Pacific coast storms sent mud sliding down southern California hillsides Thursday, and weather forecasters predicted up to two more inches of rain by nightfall.

The current storm had dumped one inch of rain on downtown Los Angeles by dawn, bringing the season's total to more than 25½ inches. The normal amount for a full year ending June 30 is only 14 inches.

Violent spring weather in the United States has claimed 24 lives this week.

30 killed, 60 missing

Mud buries 2 Peru buses

LIMA, Peru, March 24 (AP) — An avalanche of mud and rocks crashed onto two Peru's central highway buses with 90 passengers aboard, killing at least 30 persons and leaving 50-60 persons missing and feared dead, civil defense said Thursday. An unconfirmed report said 14 others persons in a nearby shantytown also were killed in the slides.

The new mudslides brought to more than 70 the number killed in mudslides and floods in north and central Peru in the past five days. Scores still are unaccounted for.

Civil defense spokesman Victor Murillo said 15 bodies had been recovered so far from the two buses, buried in one of three landslides in pre-dawn darkness Wednesday about 30 miles from Lima. "Only six persons from one of the buses are known to have been saved," he said.

Civil defense said four policemen in a Land-Rover behind the buses escaped the slides by deliberately driving into the Rimac River and floating to the bank.

The mudslides caused by torrential rains in the Andes foothills destroyed houses in a half dozen villages near the resort area of Chosica but civil defense said it had no estimate of damage or casualties. It said it could not confirm a newspaper report that the slum village of Pomatiza had been destroyed and 14 persons killed.

The mud and rocks caused new flooding along the Rimac River that supplies Lima with its water and blocked the central highway 35 miles from the Peruvian capital.

Lords uphold Sikhs' racial status

LONDON, March 24 (AFP) — The House of Lords Thursday decided that Sikhs belong to a separate racial group and are entitled to protection under a 1976 law on racial discrimination.

The decision by the five law lords — the highest legal authority in Britain overturned a ruling by Lord Denning that the law did not apply in the case of a school that would not admit a Sikh student because he refused to remove his turban.

An appeal on behalf of Gurinder Singh Mandla, who wanted to attend the Park Grove private school in Birmingham, had been backed by the Commission for Racial Equality.

But Lord Templeman said Gurinder could not comply with the school's uniform code without becoming a "victim of discrimination."

Greece-U.S. talks make progress

ATHENS, Greece, March 24 (R) — Greek and U.S. negotiators have made progress in talks on the future status and operation of U.S. military bases in Greece and

adjourned Wednesday until April, a government spokesman said here. The statement, by chief government spokesman Dimitrios Maroudas, was the most optimistic since negotiations started here last October.

He said Greek Foreign Undersecretary Yannis Kapsis and U.S. State Department official Reginald Bartholomew made progress on the three key issues — the level of defense aid to Greece, control of the bases, and a time limit on their presence. With the present phase ended, Bartholomew returned to Washington for consultations, Maroudas said.

"The talks will resume early next month which may be the final part of this phase of the negotiations," he said. Talks resumed last

Friday after an impasse said to have arisen after Greece demanded increased military aid in return for the use of the bases.

Greece originally demanded one billion dollars to modernize its armed forces in 1984, informed sources said, adding that the current U.S. for next year totaled \$500 million, far above the \$280 million now being proposed to Congress.

The Socialist government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, which came to power in October 1981 on an anti-NATO and anti-bases platform, also demands a time limit for the withdrawal of the bases — two in Attica and two on the island of Crete — and closer supervision of their activities.

When the negotiations began, Greece said the first part of the talks would concern political issues. If that part was successful the talks would switch to technical matters. Maroudas said Wednesday night that the April round would complete the political part.

Italy rejects Bulgarian's release plea

ROME, March 24 (AP) — A special tribunal on Thursday rejected a fresh request for freedom by Sergei Ivanov Antonov, the Bulgarian Airline official charged with complicity in the 1981 shooting of Pope John Paul II.

The court of freedom ruled that there was sufficient ground to justify the continued detention of Antonov who is being held in a Rome prison since his arrest Nov. 25.

The court cited testimony by Magistrate Mario Martella, who leads the state investigation into the assassination attempt, and statements made by Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist serving a life term for the attempted murder of the Polish-born pontiff.

Lawyers for the Bulgarian had told the court that Antonov was at his airline office in Rome when John Paul was shot May 13, 1981. The court examined testimony by defense witnesses supporting his alibi but ruled it was not sufficient to allow his release in the light of Agca's testimony against him.

The court turned down a similar request by Antonov's lawyers Dec. 5. Antonov is also under investigation by Italian authorities on suspicion that he might have conspired to kill Polish labor leader Lech Walesa during his visit to Rome in January 1981.

In addition to Antonov, two other Bulgarians and four Turks have been implicated in the pope assassination plot.

Meanwhile, the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome denied a report by *The New York Times* that evidence from Bulgarian defector supports Agca's testimony that he was working for Bulgaria when he tried to kill the pope.

The *Times* said Jordan Mantarov, 48, a Bulgarian diplomat who defected to France in July 1981, told French intelligence agents that a plot to murder the pope was devised by the KGB, the Soviet intelligence agency, and by the Bulgarian secret service.

Bulgarian Embassy spokesman Vassili Dimitrov said Mantarov was never a diplomat nor a secret agent but a mechanic working for a Bulgarian factory Agro-Maschina-Imper in France until July 1981.

The spokesman added that Mantarov's allegations about Bulgarian involvement in the plot to kill Pope John Paul should be reconsidered in this light. He said Mantarov had "probably decided to use for his own purposes" the Italian judicial inquiry into alleged Bulgarian contacts with Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman jailed for shooting the pope.

Meanwhile, Lech Walesa said Wednesday that unidentified gunmen may have intended to kill him during trips to Geneva and Rome in 1981. Walesa said he was questioned by Polish police Monday about the alleged plots against his life.

In both incidents, the alleged attempts involved set-ups in which another Solidarity leader, Ryszard Kalinowski from the Baltic city of Elblag, acted as an unwitting accomplice of the would-be assassins, Walesa said.

In each case, men carrying guns appeared in places that Walesa was expected to be in the company of Kalinowski. Walesa could not be pined down on details, and the exact identity and intent of the gunmen were not clear.

Labor has edge, opinion poll says

DARLINGTON, England, March 24 (R) — The opposition Labor Party was favored to win a key parliamentary by-election Thursday, reversing its recent downward slide and dimming chances of an early general election in Britain.

All public opinion polls gave Labor a voting edge over the ruling Conservatives and the centrist Liberal-Social Democratic alliance in Darlington, a northeastern industrial town where the recession has hit employment. Darlington's 60,000 voters went to the polls undeterred by unseasonal snow showers and a heavy turnout was predicted, with results due to be announced at 0030 GMT Friday.

A random survey of 539 electors telephoned for *The Northern Echo* newspaper gave Labor 38 percent of votes, Conservatives 32 percent and the Liberal-Social Democratic alliance 30 percent. The main parties had mounted a big effort to win the seat of former MP Ted Fletcher, who held it for Labor for 19 years until his death last month. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent seven ministers to campaign for Conservative candidate Michael Fallon.

A Labor win would ease pressure on 69-year-old Michael Foot to quit the leadership of the opposition party. A campaign in some sections of his party to remove him mounted after Labor's humiliating defeat last month in a by-election in London's Bermondsey dockland.

A poor Conservative showing would tell Mrs. Thatcher that her tight-money policies, blamed for boosting unemployment, are unpopular in the industrial north. It would be a major factor to be considered by Mrs. Thatcher in her calculations on whether to risk a general election in June or October or wait until early next year.

With the Conservatives riding high nationally, Mrs. Thatcher, whose term of office ends in May next year, is under pressure from party workers to go to the country soon.

GLOBAL WEATHER

	Min	C	F	Max	C	F		Min	C	F	Max	C	F
Amsterdam	4	39	9	48	cloudy		Mexico City	12	54	28	82	clear	
Athens	9	48	22	72	clear		Miami	21	69	70	158	rain	
Bahrain	17	63	22	72	clear		Montreal	-9	16	-6	21	snow	
Bangkok	28	82	36	97	clear		Moscow	0	32	3	37	cloudy	
Beirut	12	54	20	68	clear		New Delhi	11	52	27	81	clear	
Berlin	6	43	11	52	cloudy		New York	-4	25	6	43	clear	
Brussels	1	34	8	46	rain		Nicosia	7	45	21	70	clear	
Buenos Aires	19	66	26	79	clear		Ola	-2	28	6	43	clear	
Cairo	12	54	25	77	clear		Paris	6	43	13	55	cloudy	
Caracas	21	70	33	91	clear		Peking	4	39	15	59	clear	
Chicago	-10	14	0	32	clear		Rio de Janeiro	18	64	27	81	rain	
Copenhagen	2	36	7	45	rain		Rome	12	54	18	64	clear	
Dublin	3	37	5	41	clear		San Francisco	9	48	11	52	rain	
Frankfurt	7	45	10	51	rain		Seoul	5	41	14	57	clear	
Geneva	4	39	14	57	clear		Singapore	26	79	34	93	clear	
Helsinki	-1	30	2	34	cloudy		Stockholm	-1	30	1	34	snow	
Hong Kong	23	73	25	77	cloudy		Sydney	18	64	29	84	clear	
Jakarta	24	75	33	91	rain		Taipei	15	59	24	75	cloudy	
Kuala Lumpur	23	73	35	95	clear		Tokyo	11	52	13	55	cloudy	
London	5	41	6	43	cloudy		Toronto	-4	25	-22	clear		
Los Angeles	13	55	20	68	rain		Vancouver	9	48	15	55	rain	
Madrid	8	46	21	70	clear		Vienna	6	43	10	50	cloudy	
Manila	21	70	35	95	clear								